

ESSAYS

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE

PART II

BY

WILLIAM BLAIR.



ESSAYS
ON THE
VENEREAL DISEASE
AND ITS
CONCOMITANT AFFECTIONS.

PART THE SECOND:

CONTAINING

Additional Evidence, with critical and practical Remarks, on the new saline antisyphilitic Remedies; and an Answer to some Objections made against the former Part.

BY WILLIAM BLAIR, A.M. F.M.S.

SURGEON OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM,
AND OF THE FINSBURY DISPENSARY, &c.

" It will require time, acumen, extensive practice, unprejudiced judgment, to bring this medicine fairly to the test; to remark in what stages of the disorder it will do good; where its success may be doubtful; where it is certain."

Dr. Geach.

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TO THE
VARIOUS MEDICAL GENTLEMEN

WHO HAVE

INTERESTED THEMSELVES

IN

THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY

THESE

ADDITIONAL FACTS

AND

CONCLUDING REMARKS

ARE

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

FOR

IMPARTIAL EXAMINATION.



PREFACE.

THE indulgent reception my former attempt to illustrate the supposed antivenereal effects of the new remedies has met with, both in England and upon the Continent, encourages me to hope that the following pages will not be entirely unacceptable. If any part of this Essay requires an apology, it may perhaps be the liberty I have taken in laying before the public an epitome of a considerable portion of evidence, that has already been presented to them in its original form: but the acknowledged difficulty and importance of the subject, (which called for an extraordinary accumulation of facts,) will plead strongly in favour of my plan.

Had

Had *all* the communications I expected, and which were promised me, come duly to hand, I should not have stood so much in need of grace from my readers and correspondents, for the delay they have experienced. However, a sufficient number of cases have at length been collected, for the final decision of the leading points connected with this investigation. I have here endeavoured calmly and deliberately to weigh the materials before me; without being biassed by the favourable opinion of my friends, or irritated by the obloquy of intemperate opponents. Justice as well as truth demanded that I should vindicate my sentiments and proceedings; but in doing so, it is hoped I have not transgressed the laws of decorum.

Great Russel-Street, Bloomsbury,

LONDON,

December 31, 1799.

WILLIAM BLAIR.

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ESSAY the FIRST.

PART the SECOND.

On the new antivenereal remedies.

CHAPTER I.

*Recent Communications on this subject, from various
medical Practitioners.*

SECTION the First. *Fifteen Cases by Mr. Macartney.*

THE gentleman whose communications I shall first bring forward, has been long known to have paid attention to this subject : He formerly presented the result of his observations to the *Physical Society at GUY'S HOSPITAL*. I have particular satisfaction in being able to give the experience of Mr. Macartney, because of his having been in part educated at the largest venereal hospital in Europe ; on which account, it is to be presumed, the public may depend upon his knowledge of the disease on which he

writes. Some of the gentlemen, whose opinions I have already noticed, appear to be deficient in certain preliminary points with which this discussion is intimately connected ; and, from hence, they have been led either to form conclusions unsupported by legitimate facts, or to call in question the reality of events which are well known to practitioners of extensive information.—MR. MACARTNEY addresses me as follows.

DEAR SIR,

I have much pleasure in complying with your request, by giving publicity to the following cases, through the medium of your valuable work ; as I think they may contribute to form that body of evidence, which it is your object to collect, upon a subject so interesting to the profession, and so important to mankind.

An impression of the widely extended consequences which would follow the new mode of treating the venereal disease, and that these might be either the most beneficial or the most pernicious, induced me at an early period to institute an enquiry into the merits of the remedies in question ; more especially



especially of the nitrous acid.—The most difficult, as well as consequential, object, was to ascertain if these medicines had the power of *eradicating the disease*. With a view to this point, I selected as far as circumstances would permit, persons of whose subsequent history I could obtain information; and I esteem myself fortunate, in being at present possessed of the event in almost every case.

The extensive plan of investigation you have adopted upon this subject, and the indefatigable zeal with which you have laboured to carry it into execution, deserves the acknowledgment of every man into whose care the health of his fellow citizens may be committed.—It is to be hoped, that your exertions will accumulate that mass of information, which the experience of no individual could reach; and which is needed for the decision of the public, upon a question so deeply involving the welfare of society.

I am, Sir,

with much esteem,

your very obedient servant,

JAMES MACARTNEY.

Millman Street, Bedford Row,

the 8th of June, 1798.

It will save repetition, to describe here, the quantity and mode, in which I have commonly administered the nitrous acid ; and to observe, that where no deviation is noticed in the succeeding cases, I am to be understood, as having employed it in this manner. An equal part of water, is mixed with the common acid of the shops, in order to avoid the annoyance of its fumes : Of this, a measure containing, by previous computation, a drachm of the acid, is put into a quart bottle, which is then filled up with water ; and the patient is desired to drink this quantity, as he may best please, during the day.—A more distinct understanding will be obtained of the cases, by arranging them according to the usual progression of the forms of the disease ; than, if they were placed in the order of their dates,

I. *Of Primary Affections treated with the Oxymuriatic and Nitrous Acids.*

C A S E I.

SARAH STEWARD, *Belvidere Buildings, St. George's Fields*, had a chancre upon each labium, and two incipient

incipient buboes. She began to take the oxy-muriatic acid, the 3rd of June 1797, in the quantity of fifteen drops daily, diluted in a pint of water; the chancres were dressed with simple cerate.—5th day. The smaller bubo diminished; the chancres not improved.—6th day. The acid suspended, and a laxative administered.—7th day. The large bubo red, painful, and threatening to suppurate; the chancre spreading. Fifty drops of the acid were now given daily, in a pint of water.—8th day. The bubo more inflamed the aqua lythargyri acetati composita applied to it: The acid encreased to sixty drops.—9th day. One bubo advancing to suppuration; the other not further diminished; and the chancres unchanged in appearance.—10th day. The acid relinquished for mercurial frictions; which were continued during a month, when her cure was completed, although the bubo went on to suppuration.

This patient's health seemed improved during the first part of the treatment; and it deserves remark, that she suffered no emaciation from the course of mercury. I am unwilling to draw any inference from this case, with respect to the efficacy of the oxy-muriatic acid, as an antivenereal remedy; it appearing

pearing to have been administered, in not a sufficient quantity at first.

C A S E II.

HENRY ALDRIDGE, No. 4, *Black Lion Yard White Chapel*, commenced the use of the nitrous acid, on the 2nd of June 1797. He had two chancres upon the prepuce, and a suppurated bubo which was ulcerated at one point, from whence it slowly discharged. The bubo was poulticed, and the chancres dressed with simple cerate. He only took fifteen drops of the acid, diluted in a quart of water until the 4th day, when the quantity of acid was doubled: Both the chancres and bubo better.—8th day. The bubo greatly diminished; the smaller chancre began to heal; the bubo dressed with unguentum resinæ; fifty drops of the acid given in the day, at which rate it was continued.—11th day. The smaller chancre nearly cicatrized.—12th day. Completely so; the thickened edge, however, still remaining.—14th day. The bubo healed.—18th day. The remaining sore nearly healed; and its chancrous appearance lost; the thickening, which had continued round the edge of the smaller chancre removed.—21st day. The chancre perfectly healed; some thickening at one part evident;

evident; but this disappeared before the 24th day. The acid was continued, for seven days after the removal of the last symptom.

The only constitutional effect, that could be observed in this case, was a great encrease of appetite. I saw him at different periods, from the time he ceased to use the acid, until the 7th of August following, when he went to sea; during which time, he remained without any symptom of the disease; and accounts have been received from him, dated early in April last, in which he mentioned his having enjoyed uninterrupted good health.

C A S E III.

JOHN MYERS, *Eagle Street, Spitalfields*, came under my care the 16th of November, 1797, with two extremely ulcerated buboes, tending to that state usually termed phagedenic; and his health much impaired. He described the complaint to be of six weeks existence, for which he had not employed any remedy: Such buboes, should properly have been dressed with some escharotic; but, that the acid might act without assistance, equal parts of *unguentum resinæ* and *unguentum simplex* were applied.

The

The nitrous acid was employed in the quantity I have previously described as customary.—5th day. The buboes looked cleaner.—8th day. One of them contracted, the other better; his health already somewhat recruited.—13th day. The buboes not amended; wore his bandages too tight, and neglected to dress so often as necessary; his health greatly improved.—16th day. One bubo partly healed; the other also better.—18th day. One bubo nearly cicatrized; complained of pain at the orifice of his urethra, which upon examination appeared much inflamed.—22nd day. One bubo healed, the other better; felt less pain in the urethra.—26th day. The remaining bubo not better; the orifice of the urethra still much inflamed.—30th day. No alteration; confessed he had been irregular in taking the acid for some days previous; complained of constipation, and of the acid nauseating, especially in the morning: A cathartic given, and the acid suspended for two days.—36th day. The bubo appeared more healthy, and somewhat more contracted.—39th day. The bubo better; an ulcer detected within the orifice of the urethra.—42nd day. The bubo continued to contract, and heal; the ulcer of the urethra looked clean; and he felt but little pain, when the urine passed over it.—45th day. Better in every

every respect.—47th day. The ulcer began to heal; the bubo in a great degree cicatrized; his breath observed to have a peculiar cadaverous smell, very different from that which shews the presence of mercury: He attributed this effect to the acid, as he never was conscious of possessing it before. He became every day more irregular, and discontinued the acid altogether, upon the 52rd day; before either the ulcer or bubo, had entirely healed.—61st. day. Both sores were perfectly healed, although no means had been employed for the purpose; since which time, I have only been able to see him once, which was early in last March; when he informed me, he had continued perfectly well during the interval.

The tardiness, with which this man's symptoms yielded, may be explained by the inveteracy of his disease; his irregularity in taking the medicine; and by his rude, and careless mode of dressing his sores. If we give credit to his assertion, of having abstained from all means of contracting the disease anew, we must suppose the ulcer in the urethra, to be either a secondary chancre, or the effect of a former infection, retarded, but not prevented from coming into action, by the nitrous acid: The *latter*, I think not improbable;

c

bable ; for, I have known the disease first make its appearance by a bubo, when the person had been certainly removed from every possibility of receiving infection, for two months,

C A S E I V.

WILLIAM GREENING,
applied to me the 25th of November, 1797, with chancres upon the frænum. He said he had taken pills containing calomel, for a fortnight before ; from which, he had derived no benefit. He began the nitrous acid, whilst under the action of mercury ; nothing but lint was applied to the sores.—5th day. The chancres had spread and looked worse.—8th day. They were cleaner.—13th day. They put on the appearance of healthy sores, but had not diminished ; his mouth, which had been rendered sore by the pills, was now pretty well recovered ; an incipient bubo felt in the groin.—15th day. The chancres better, the bubo rather larger.—18th day. The chancres still better, and the bubo considerably less.—21st day. The chancres somewhat diminished ; the bubo entirely dissipated. He now became dissatisfied, and discontinued the medicine,

In consequence of my having omitted to note his residence, I have been unable to learn more of the case, until the 20th of the last month; when I accidentally met him: He informed me that after he ceased to take the acid, he put himself into the hands of an empiric, who perfected his cure in a fortnight, by a medicine, which it would appear, was a preparation of sublimate; but which he did not take in sufficient quantity, to produce any of its proper constitutional effects: He has since been exempt from any appearance of the disease.

The utility of this case, chiefly consists in its affording an example of bubo being arrested by the acid; the power of doing which, has been denied by many. It is obvious, that nothing can be assumed in favour of the acid, with respect to the stability of the cure, in consequence of the after employment of another remedy.

C A S E V.

MICHAEL KELLY, *a marine*, began to take the nitrous acid, upon the 12th of January, 1798. He had two chancres, one upon the glans penis, and the other within the prepuce. The inguinal glands

formed an irregular mass of tumors of a livid colour, some of which had ulcerated. According to his relation of the previous case, these complaints had existed for six months ; during which time, he had used mercury in different forms, but without regularity, and apparently without any advantage. Simple cerate only was applied to the sores, which he had of himself lately dressed with a solution of blue vitriol.—4th day. The glands evidently reduced in size, and discharged less ; the surrounding induration of the chancres also diminished.—7th day. The chancres had thrown off an incrustation, formed by the blue vitriol, and presented a healthy appearance ; the bubo less livid, and painful.—9th day. The chancres began to heal ; the tumor in the groin further diminished.—11th day. The chancre upon the glands healed ; his other symptoms better ; complains of a burning sensation at the stomach, and nausea : The acid discontinued for two days.—15th day, The remaining chancre healed ; the bubo better.—18th day. The acid again nauseated, and was again suspended for three days ; the bubo stationary.—21st day. The disease in the groin not better ; and a recent chancre had appeared upon the frænum.—23rd day. No alteration in his venereal symptoms ;

symptoms ; and his health much deranged ; he complained of pain in his stomach ; was obstinately costive ; his belly appeared clung to his back ; his respiration laborious, accompanied with a cough ; and he discharged a very great quantity of saliva, especially during the night : He denied having used any other medicine ; or having taken the acid incautiously, either as to the quantity, or with respect to the sort of vessel he drank it from ; nor could any evidence of the presence of mercury be detected, by the fætor of the breath, or saliva, or by the state of the gums. The acid was now relinquished, and by means of the evacuant and antiphlogistic treatment his health was sufficiently reinstated in three days, to begin the use of the *pilulæ hydrargyri* (Ph. Lond.) only a slight cough, and the ptyalism, remaining ; which, as afterwards proved, were not to be aggravated by the administration of mercury.—27th day. The chancre not better ; a second pill taken daily ; the salivation still continued.—29th day. The chancre put on a better aspect ; the salivation less profuse ; the cough gave little trouble ; the mercury began to render his breath fætid ; and the bubo, which had been stationary for many days, shewed a disposition to heal.—33rd day. All his sores amended : He

spat

spat less, although the presence of mercury in the constitution had become very evident.—37th day. The spitting had ceased, notwithstanding the pills had occasioned considerable soreness of the mouth; both the bubo and chancre nearly cicatrized.—40th day. Both were healed; after which, he persisted in the use of mercury, for ten days. I have been unable to trace this patient's history further; in consequence of his leaving London, without having given me any direction to his future residence.

It has happened to many experimenters upon this subject, that their patients became salivated; but it was afterwards discovered that, in most of these instances, mercury had been secretly employed at the time: From the circumstances of this case however, such a suspicion, cannot be entertained: And, I need hardly remark, that admitting the acid to have excited the ptyalism, it must have been upon a principle of action different, and even opposite to that of mercury.—This case affords hardly any data with respect to the specific power of the medicine; the administration of the acid having been so soon interrupted, by such extraordinary and inexplicable constitutional derangement.

Of

II. *Of Oxy muriate of Potash and Nitrous Acid in ulcerated Throat and Affections of the Skin.*

C A S E VI.

JOHN HAYES, a seaman belonging to the *Venerable* man of war, was afflicted with that species of sore throat described by some as partaking of an erisipelatous character ; which excavates the parts by a slough, rather than removes them by a process of ulceration ; in which also, the edges are peculiarly thickened, rugged, and abrupt, and the surrounding parts are almost livid, with irritative inflammation. In this instance, the disease had destroyed almost the entire soft palate, and a portion of the tongue ; and had even spread some way upon the posterior part of the pharynx ; his face, neck, and hands were likewise covered by that peculiar eruption, so characteristic of the disease, consisting of numerous little flesh-like eminences upon the skin ; which, as they advance, do not tend to suppuration, but acquire a mealy incrustation upon their surface. The previous history of the case is, that these complaints had existed for many months, during which, mercury had been extensively employed, in the form of pills and unction,

at

at first with some benefit, but latterly without any effect; that his health had sustained great injury from the continued ravages of the disease, and the repeated exhibition of mercury; that in the months of December and January last, he took the nitrous acid for three weeks, during which, his complaints were arrested, and his health improved: But the acid occasioned him so much pain, by meeting with the ulcers, in the act of swallowing, that he was obliged to disuse it; Afterward, the progress of the disease in his throat was restrained by different local applications, and his health was further amended, by tonic remedies, until the 11th of February last; when he was put under my care, to be treated with the oxy-muriate of potash, which was administered in doses of ten grains; beginning with three of each daily, and directing him to encrease this number by one every day, until he took ten doses, or one hundred grains in the twenty-four hours.—5th day. No alteration produced in the state of the ulcers or eruption; pain experienced in swallowing the potash.—10th day. The ulcer had become cleaner, and had granulated in some places; but, the eruption had somewhat encreased. A good deal of general vascular excitement, and a gentle looseness were produced by his medicine:

But,

But, not in a degree inconsistent with good health, which he now enjoyed.—14th day. The condition of his throat further improved; and the eruption unaltered—18th day. Neither of his complaints better.—21st day. The potash seeming only to restrain the progress of the disease in his throat, and hardly to do so much with respect to the eruption, was not longer persisted in; since when, mercury has been cautiously administered, in the form of sublimate, and accompanied with the decoctum cinchonæ; by which, his complaints have gradually amended, without his having suffered any of the common inconveniencies of a mercurial course.

We are here furnished with an instance of the inefficacy of the new remedies, as far as regards their specific operation; but perhaps no conclusion can be drawn from hence, when it is remembered, that mercury had previously failed, although fully and fairly tried. The sequel of the case illustrates this important maxim of practice, not in general attended to enough; that the patient must usually possess a certain degree of strength, before mercury will exert that *specific* influence, upon which the destruction of the venereal disposition or action essentially depends.

C A S E VII.

MARGARET KITE, applied to me, the 8th of December, 1797, with her throat deeply ulcerated on both sides, and sores at each angle of her mouth. The previous history of her case, as she gave it, was ; that about eight months before, she had a sore throat, for which she took mercurial pills ; that the symptoms were removed, and she remained well during a month, when the disease returned ; since which, it has continued. She received three quart bottles of the acid drink, of the degree of dilution I have already mentioned as usual ; but, did not return until the 8th day, when I found her throat better. Her irregularity had been occasioned by the occurrence of chancres, attended with inflammation of the labia pudendi, which gave her much pain in walking. She had probably contracted these from her husband, as he lately had, according to her account, some primary symptoms of the disease.—10th day. All her complaints, but especially the ulcers of the throat, better ; aqua lythargyri acetati composita applied to the inflamed labia.—12th day. The condition of her throat exceedingly improved ; the chancres, and ulcers of the lips, better ; but, not in the same degree.—16th day.

Nothing

Nothing deserving the name of ulceration visible in her throat; in other respects also, better; found no inconvenience from the acid, if taken after food; but if drank fasting, it vomitted. 20th day. The chancres considerably better; the ulceration of her lips hardly visible; nothing but a sort of scummy or film-like appearance in her throat, where the ulceration had been.—24th day. The chancres and the ulcers of her lips had healed; and her throat looked in perfect health. It was now intended, that she should continue the acid for three weeks, to establish the cure: But, in the 2nd week she became irregular, when a slight excoriation was discovered upon the uvula, and the sores re-appeared upon her lips; on the 39th day therefore, the acid was renewed.—42nd day. The uvula had recovered its healthy appearance, and the ulcers upon the lip had nearly healed.—44th day. She was free from every symptom; but complained of the acid disordering her stomach, although it had in the beginning improved her health and appetite. Its administration was accordingly suspended for two days; after which, the oxy-muriate of potash was intended to be substituted in its stead: During this short interval, one of the sores upon the lip recurred, and a long shallow ulcer was detected

just before the uvula, surrounded by a superficial and circumscribed inflammation.—46th day. The oxy-muriate of potash was given, in the quantity of a scruple thrice a day.—48th day. Some amendment could be observed; four scruples now taken daily; and the 50th day, once more, her complaints were removed. Having now lost all confidence in the means which had been employed for her recovery, in consequence of the many relapses she had experienced, she became anxious to try mercury; and for that purpose, soon after, went into one of the hospitals, where she was salivated, and without success, as she herself has reported; but with what truth, my ignorance of her present residence has prevented me from ascertaining.

In case the third, I mentioned the occurrence of a singular factor of the breath, during the time the nitrous acid was taken: It is equally curious, that in the present instance, a very foul breath, with which the patient had been troubled from her infancy, was entirely removed. Such contrary effects, apparently produced by the use of the acid, cannot be accounted for with our present defective knowledge of the remedy.

C A S E VIII.

CATHARINE COTTER, *Bermondsey Street, Maze Pond, Borough*, had laboured under a venereal affection of the throat, for a year; the nature of which not being for a long time understood, it had been treated for several months with bark and wine; and the consequences were, a considerable destruction of the soft palate, and the loss of distinct articulation. She had more recently undergone a mercurial salivation, by which, the symptoms were removed; but, in a week after, she relapsed. The 5th of January, 1798, when she submitted to be treated by the nitrous acid, there was a large ulcerated hole in the velum palati, which appeared to be connected with an extensive ulceration posteriorly, from the quantity of mucus discharged; and the stench of her breath was such as indicated the presence of a carious bone. The late liberal employment of mercury, had rendered her extremely weak, emaciated, and irritable.—2nd day. My surprise was much excited, to find no appearance whatever of ulceration in her throat, and the fætor of her breath entirely removed.—7th day. Continued well; her health much improved; imagining there was no further necessity for the acid, she desisted from its use for twenty-two days, during which,

which, a small ulceration appeared on one tonsil.—On the 29th day, from the date of the case, she returned to the acid.—35th day. The last ulceration removed; but another small one had appeared by its side. 39th day. No soreness remained in her throat; and she had recovered her health and strength with a good complexion; the acid was then persisted in for about sixty days with some regularity; when she became so languid and emaciated, that it was necessary to diminish very much the quantity: Soon afterward she felt a tenderness in her throat, and this in a little time was followed by an evident ulceration.—The acid not now encouraging any hopes of subduing the disease, without impairing her health, it was altogether given up, upon the 7th of last May; since which period, she has continued to take mercurial pills. At the time I write this, there is no ulcer to be discovered in her throat, and she begins to acquire better general health.

C A S E IX.

THOMAS HOXFORD, No. 2, *Abel's Buildings, Rosemary Lane*, had his throat deeply ulcerated; his food was often rejected by the nose, in the attempt to swallow; and his voice was a perfect snivel. He had been

been afflicted with a sore throat for a long period, with an interval of health of two months, obtained by mercury. He began to take the nitrous acid, the 17th of November 1797: He drank it of the degree of dilution I have mentioned to be usual; but owing to a mistake in labelling the bottle, which was not discovered for thirty-seven days, he only took a tea-cupful and an half in the day.—6th day. A little better.—10th day. Still better, particularly the ulceration on one side.—13th day. No change observed.—20th day. Considerably amended, swallowing with little pain or difficulty.—26th day. One side almost healed, the fauces altogether looked more pale and healthy.—29th day. The tonsil, which began first to heal, was completely cicatrized and the state of the other side amended; the acid griped.—32nd day. The remaining ulcer nearly healed; swallowed without difficulty; and his voice was very much recovered.—35th day. Nothing appeared but a scumminess, where the last ulcer had been situated.—37th day. A little of the film or scum-like appearance still observed; the full quantity of the acid now taken.—40th day. Perfectly well. To guard against a relapse, it was intended he should continue the acid for six weeks longer; but, he not understanding

understanding the necessity there might be for this treatment, when he felt himself well, became very irregular after the first fortnight, taking his medicine in small quantities, and even that only occasionally : Upon the 5th day of February 1798, he ceased entirely to take the acid.—Twenty-seven days from this date, he began to complain of uneasiness in his throat ; which, upon inspection appeared inflamed, and exhibited, in one part, a small superficial ulceration : He therefore returned to the acid, and in five days the inflammation and ulcer had disappeared. He was now charged to persist in the regular use of the acid for a month, and I saw no more of him until the 24th of last April ; when I found him in the hands of a practitioner in his neighbourhood, who has the reputation of performing miraculous cures by simple means.—The patient and his friends informed me, that he had diligently observed my directions, with respect to the acid, until he found his health much injured, became weak, emaciated, lost his appetite, and had every night profuse perspirations ; during this time too, they said, the complaint in his throat had returned with all its former severity, his drink regurgitating by the nose. He told me, he remained in this deplorable state until a week before the time I
saw

saw him ; when he applied to the person under whose care I found him, who furnished him with a powder to take every day, by which, he was restored to health and soundness. The improbability of this story, led me to doubt its accuracy ; and upon applying to the gentleman who prescribed for him, I found that the powders consisted merely of thirty grains of crude antimony with some white sugar, and that they were given with the expectation of curing an old scrophulous affection of the knee, the patient's throat having never been inspected.

It seems impossible, in any medical question, to obtain a more thorough conviction, than the three preceding cases afford, of the specific power of the nitrous acid over the existing actions of the venereal disease: The rapid removals and re-appearances, of the symptoms, corresponding so exactly with the administration of the remedy, preclude the idea of the acid subduing the disease by its tonic influence upon the constitution. It may be urged, that from its application to the diseased part in swallowing, it becomes a local remedy in sore throat : This supposition however seems answered, from the same kind of alternate effect being observed in affections of the

bones, according to the exhibition or discontinuance of the acid; of which case the 14th will furnish an example: Besides, if the new remedies operated as a caustic upon the ulcerated surface in the throat, we should expect them to possess a more constant efficacy than we know they do.

C A S E X.

WILLIAM PRING, No. 13, *George's-street, Portland Chapel*, commenced the use of the nitrous acid, the 3d of February, 1798. He had an extensive ulceration of the fauces; and also one of those enlargements of the wrist joint, so commonly the effect of mercury in scrophulous constitutions. According to the account he gave of his disease, his throat had been ulcerated in March 1797; and in the September following, he went into the Lock Hospital, where mercurial frictions were employed for nine weeks, during which his throat became well; in two months after he was discharged from the hospital, the disease returned, since which it had continued—4th day. No alteration could be seen in the condition of his throat.—9th day. The ulceration looked more healthy in general, and at one part was disposed to heal; the swelling of the wrist somewhat diminished, and

and relieved of pain.—12th day. A part of his throat had cicatrized, but the ulceration began to extend in another direction; the motions of his wrist could be performed with tolerable freedom and ease; although he was very regular in taking his medicine, it seemed to have produced no excitement of the constitution.—17th day. The ulceration continued to extend.—21st day. The acid not promising any advantage, with respect to his venereal symptoms, it was not further continued. I have been able to pursue the history of this patient until the present time; and I find, that he has been judiciously treated with mercury, in the form of sublimate, for six weeks; notwithstanding which, the disease has continued to make progress, destroying more of the soft palate, and extending into the nose; by which, the bones became carious, and some of them have since exfoliated.

There can be no hesitation in receiving this case as one, in which the acid entirely failed; but, it is evident, as in CASE VI, that we cannot therefore impeach the merits of the new remedy, if they be contrasted with those of mercury, which in this instance proved equally inefficient.

C A S E XI.

MARY MATTHEWS, *No. 2, Robert's Court, White Horse Lane, White Chapel*, came under my care, to be treated with nitrous acid, the 4th of October 1797. About four months previous to this, she had buboes, for which she took mercurial pills : She remained well about six weeks, when the following complaints appeared : Blotches on most parts of her body, but especially on those which were exposed, some of which had proceeded to form pus and to scab ; small cutaneous abscesses, upon the palms of her hands and soles of her feet ; and a partial inflammation of the membrane lining the nose, from which matter was frequently discharged at the nostril.—3rd. day. All these symptoms amended.—7th day. The less forward blotches, little observable ; these, more advanced ; the affection of the palms and soles, and that of her nose all improved ; although one new abscess had formed upon her hand.—14th day. When viewed in a common light, none of the blotches visible, except one upon her eyebrow ; the state of her nose, &c. not so much amended, as that of her skin.—21st day. The blotches in general still discernable, when viewed in a particular light ; the affection of her nose, perfectly well ; the condition of her palms and

and soles not improved; became very irregular in the use of her medicine, as she imagined herself well.—27th day. A degree of scurfiness just apparent in some places, and in others a little duskiness of the skin; prevailed upon to be more regular in taking the acid.—34th day. Would not consent to use the acid longer; the affections of her palms and soles entirely removed; and nothing remained of the blotches, but a cloudiness in the skin, which disappeared of itself in a few weeks. From this period until the present, an interval of seven months, I have occasionally seen her, and she at all times assured me of her continuance in perfect health.

III. *Of the Effects of Nitrous Acid, in Ulcers, Nodes, and Excrescences.*

C A S E XII.

JAMES SLOAN, *seaman*, applied to me with most parts of his body covered with ulcers, which had proceeded from blotches; and a large node upon the tibia, evidently containing a fluid, extremely sensible to the touch, and from which he suffered severe nocturnal pain. Some months previously, he had the primary symptoms, for which he had been injudiciously

ditionally treated. His health was much impaired, by the long continued irritation of the disease. He began the nitrous acid the 7th of October, 1797. His sores were dressed with equal parts of unguentum resinæ and unguentum simplex.—7th day. The pain at night less; hardly any fluctuation to be felt upon the node.—14th day. The ulcers all better; the fluctuation and soreness upon the touch entirely removed.—21st day. Scarcely any pain felt in the node, which also had diminished; the ulcer better.—28th day. All pain in the node removed; the ulcers began in many places to cicatrize.—35th day. Many of the ulcers healed; the node much reduced.—42nd day. The ulcers better in general; the node hardly to be felt.—48th day. Most of the ulcers cicatrized; no appearance of the node left.—55th day. All the ulcers were healed except one upon his breast, another upon his back, and two in his ham, of which he had been peculiarly negligent in dressing. He now went to sea, provided with a months store of acid and dressing.—During the whole of the treatment, the acid never disagreed with him; but on the contrary, his health became so much improved, that he was soon able to perform his duty on board the ship.—I have heard twice of this

this patient, from a medical friend of mine, who resides at the port to which he sailed, and to whose care I had consigned him upon his arrival. The first letter, dated February 9, 1798, informs me that "my patient remains as well as when I saw him." In the second letter, which is dated April 11, 1798, he tells me, "the blotches have broken out again in different parts; his scalp is particularly affected; the ulcer on his back, and that on his breast, had never healed: The node, however, seems perfectly cured." I have not since this, received any further intelligence upon the subject.

C A S E XIII.

JANE WINGROVE, No. 3, *St. George's Mall, St. George's Fields*, began to take the nitrous acid, the 17th of November, 1797. She had a large node upon her forehead, of some years duration, in which, she said, she felt *lately* nocturnal pain. She had also a peculiar pustulous irruption, which I have often observed to be common in women of the town, and many other classes of people who live intemperately and suffer at the same time exposure to weather: It is rarely distinguished from another eruption, which is really venereal, and which it resembles in every

every respect ; only one perhaps excepted, that *this* eruption very soon forms a thin, dark, scab ; whilst that which is venereal, remains long in a state of pustule, and if not counteracted by the appropriate remedy, the pustules crouding together, commonly terminate in ulceration. She described the eruption to be of many months existence, during which it had little altered.—7th day. The pain of the node less ; the eruption better.—9th day. I thought the shape of the node altered, and somewhat diminished ; the pain and eruption continued to grow better.—13th day. The node had certainly recovered its original size and figure, but was free from pain ; some new pimples had made their appearance ; one very large one in particular, upon her breast.—17th day. The second crop of pustules generally better ; the one on her breast well.—21st day. Some more new pimples discovered ; but all which had previously appeared, were much better. Being now persuaded, as well as myself, that the eruption was not venereal, she gave up the use of every medicine. The eruption continued to come out, and decline, alternately, during the winter, and spontaneously disappeared in the spring. No alteration has taken place with
respect

respect to the node, since her treatment by the acid; now a period of six months.

C A S E XIV. (a)

WILLIAM PRESCOT, commenced the use of the nitrous acid, upon the 28th of December, 1797. He had six nodes upon different parts of the cranium, one of which, situated just above the orbit, projected nearly half an inch, resembling in some measure a horn: He had used mercury very extensively some time before, during which, the disease had encreased.—4th day. Thought his pain rather less; complained of the acid disordering his stomach; the dose was therefore diminished.—8th day. The nodes in general reduced in size; felt also less pain; was now able to take the full quantity of the acid.—13th day. All the nodes considerably diminished, and the pain much abated.—18th day. All the nodes, except the one above the orbit, had disappeared; some pain still felt; his general health better.—25th day. All pain removed; the

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remaining

(a) I had an opportunity of attending this case along with DR. BABINGTON.

remaining node was not observable by the eye, but could even yet be distinctly felt upon the edge of the orbit.—28th day. Nothing remained of his disease, but some unevenness of the brim of the orbit ; the acid was discontinued, as he began again to complain of disordering his stomach ; and in a very few days, he felt pain at night, and some of the nodes had reappeared ; sarsaparilla was then freely administered in decoction for several days, but without any effect in controlling the progress of the complaint : It was now resolved to make trial a second time of the nitrous acid, by which his disease was again subdued ; however, from what had been already experienced in this case, it was judged unsafe to trust the radical cure to the acid ; and he was therefore put under a course of mercurial pills, which he took with regularity for many days ; but from what cause I could not learn, he ceased to come for his medicine ; and not being in possession of his address, I have been unable to trace the case further ; it however sufficiently exemplifies, as before observed, the specific operation of the remedy.

C A S E X V.

JAMES Moss, *seaman*, applied to me the 16th of
December,

December, 1797; with numerous large excrescences about the anus, upon the scrotum, and along the lower surface of the penis; and several sores in the neighbourhood, more probably produced by these condylomatous affections, than by a recent infection. Aqua lithargyri acetati composita was given him to wash the parts with.—The 5th day after he began the nitrous acid, the sores were considerably amended.—8th day. The excrescences, especially those upon the scrotum, somewhat less.—12th day. All the sores, except two upon the reflection of the prepuce, cicatrized; the excrescences every where evidently diminished; his health, which had been much injured by a long confinement in a french prison, increased daily.—17th day. The fici upon the penis, and scrotum hardly visible; better in other respects.—21st day. Only one sore remained unhealed, which was very superficial; the scrotal excrescences just to be felt in a few places, but in general no thickening existed; those about the anus also better.—28th day. All the remaining excrescences amended; the sore little more than excoriation.—32nd. day. Few excrescences remained except around the anus, which were kept in a constant state of irritation, by the motion of the buttocks, and his uncleanness.—35th day. All

the fici removed, except one on each side of the anus; the sore had apparently healed.—39th day. The ulcer was again visible, having been more negligent in the use of the lotion; the excrescences had not improved. Finding himself in other respects in good health, he went to sea without acquainting me with the name of his vessel; I have never therefore heard of him since. A solitary case can hardly justify any conclusion, with respect to the power of the acid, over excrescences: These affections, although they are subject to internal remedies, being also so much influenced by the local treatment, that it is often very difficult to decide how the effect is produced.

IV. *Here ends the evidence I have been able to produce on this subject: It remains to examine what conclusions the foregoing facts justify.*

The extreme usefulness of the new remedies, by *invigorating the constitution*, is a point so universally granted by experimenters on the subject, that it is only requisite to observe, that all the preceding cases bear testimony to this effect, at least during the early part of the treatment: A subsequent derangement, however, such

such as was experienced by Kelly, Kite, Cotter, Hoxford, and Prescott, occurs so frequently, that the nitrous acid, &c. seem *even* by their constitutional effects, to be calculated for temporary or provisional remedies.

I have already had occasion to observe upon the specific power of the new remedies, to suspend or arrest the symptoms of the venereal disease ; which property, every case I have related tends more or less to substantiate, except the 6th and 10th. It is a remarkable circumstance, however, that in these instances, and the others wherein the nitrous acid had failed to accomplish the radical cure, mercury, at one time or another, either had proved inadequate to eradicate the disease, or to subdue the symptoms : But I do not feel myself permitted to deduce any inference from hence ; as I believe there are cases of failure recorded, in which no such correspondence was observed.

The *radical cure* of the disease, is properly the subject of controversy ; and upon this head, the preceding cases furnish us with interesting facts, though not all the information that is required for
absolute

absolute and impartial decision. In the instances of Kelly, Kite, Cotter, Hayes, Pring, Hoxford, Prescott, and *Sloan*, (as far as regards his blotches) we possess evidence of the incompetency of the remedy to *perfect* the cure of the disease. On the other hand, the cases of Aldridge, Matthews, Wingrove, and *Sloan*, (with respect to his nodes) as being positive evidence, demand attention: But, besides the uncertainty which would attend a conclusion drawn from a few facts, there are circumstances connected with each case, which considerably invalidate the deduction that might be otherwise inferred. Thus, it occasionally happens, that the venereal disease, although unchecked by medicine, does not go through its usual stages; but, as it were, prematurely wears out; and this has been remarked to occur with peculiar frequency in primary affections. Admitting this practical observation to be just, which I believe it is, we can hardly assume any thing upon Aldridge's case. Again, it may not unreasonably be doubted, whether time enough has yet elapsed in Matthews's case, to pronounce her perfectly out of danger from the late occurring symptoms. Further, the nature of Wingrove's node appears to be very questionable: It is by no means unfrequent for nodes of such long duration

ration to give trouble, both by their size and pain, *after they have ceased to be venereal.* And lastly, with respect to Sloan's case; the recurrence of one of his symptoms, gives occasion to suspect the stability of his cure, as applied to the node.

With these objections before me, and the opposite evidence (collected from my own experience and the reports of others,) *I should feel myself highly culpable in ACTING under any other opinion, than that of THE INSUFFICIENCY OF THE NEW REMEDIES TO PERFORM A RADICAL CURE OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE.*

I cannot take leave of the subject, without animadverting upon the THEORY, commonly connected with the action of the remedies in question, by which the calm and impartial investigation of their merits has been much impeded.

The advocates of this theory have left it unsupported by experiment; and it should seem, that the supposititious circumstances, upon which it entirely rests, are not very consonant with the known laws of the animal body: For instance; what evidence have we of any substance, and of those in particular called
oxygenous,

oxygenous, separating their oxygen (as it is vaguely expressed) in the system? But, if it were evolved, could it combine with the living solid, or would it pass in a gaseous form into the fluids of the body? We only know oxygen in its combinations: In what part of the body is the decomposition of oxygenous substances effected? and where, or how, are the new compounds produced? Would these new compounds be stimuli to the animal fibre? Has the administration of acids, &c. ever encreased the animal heat or superoxygenated the blood? These, and many other points, the supporters of the new doctrine are probably unprepared to substantiate or explain.

I have now to plead the peculiar circumstances of hurry, under which I prepared this communication, as an excuse for its many deficiencies. Some of these observations were made at the moment of writing, which might therefore be rejected upon mature consideration; and numerous other observations and collateral facts could have been adduced, if my leisure had permitted. The *cases*, however, are carefully and faithfully detailed; in doing which, I have the pleasure to think that I have contributed, in some degree, to define and establish the powers of a class
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of medicines calculated, in judicious hands, to save the health and the lives of many of my fellow creatures.

SECTION the Second. *Several Cases by Dr. Rowley,
Mr. Phillips, and Dr. Hooper, of London.*

*St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary,
April 11th, 1798.*

DEAR SIR,

AT your request I have drawn out the following cases ; and hope they will prove suitable to your intended publication, the utility of which I have so long anticipated.

In the relation of each case I have paid particular attention to the effects which, it was presumed, were caused by the exhibition of the medicines, independant of the alteration they produced upon the disease for which they were exhibited. I have been induced to do this, from the accounts that have been given by various ingenious gentlemen being of very opposite
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natures.

natures. It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of every circumstance; as I suppose that the symptoms connected with the disease, and the progress made by the *specific*, (as they have been called by some,) are alone enough to ascertain and determine the grand question in point, viz. Whether the nitric acid, oxygenated muriate of potash, and other analagous substances, cure the SECONDARY SYMPTOMS of the Venereal Disease.?

I am, &c. &c.

ROBERT HOOPER.

*To Mr. Blair,
Great Russel Street.*

C A S E I.

On the 1st of November 1797, TIMOTHY BRYAN, aged 22, of a lean but athletic habit, was deemed a proper subject for the trial of the nitrous acid. Some months previous, he had been under the influence of mercury, for pains in his bones, without any other symptoms of syphilis, the effect of healing a chancre of his penis, by the exhibition of a few mercury pills given to him in Ireland. A long mercurial ptyalism had greatly impaired his health, but caused his pains totally to subside, and he concluded
he

he had experienced a radical cure ; but to his astonishment, in about four months after, his pains returned, he was attacked with a sore throat, and small eruptions on his breast and other parts of his body. In this state ; that is, with a syphilitic scab (which was every day encreasing in magnitude) upon his right eyebrow, the size of a hazel nut; copper coloured spots in several parts of his body; dreadful nocturnal pains; a throat ulcerated, the ulcers exhibiting lardaceous surfaces and elevated edges; the nitrous acid was administered.—MR. PHILLIPS, under whose immediate care he was placed, ordered as follows :

R Acidi nitrosi ℥ij pond.

Spt. Myrist. ℥iſs

Aq. puræ ℥xivſs M.

Cujus sumat Ager coch. iij amp. ter in die.

No inconvenience was experienced from the medicine, and the disease remained without any visible change until the 6th; when he informed me he found his appetite much mended, and his pains if any thing abated. The appearance of the ulcerated tonsil was much altered; for, instead of presenting the lardaceous surface, it was of a florid hue, and apparently healing. Was not this the effect of the nitrous acid passing over the sore?—On the 8th.

He was ordered to take his medicine four times a day: There was no apparent alteration, except, that the scab on the eyebrow was more elevated, the basis enlarged and inflamed, and the ulcer of the throat was much more sensible, giving a considerable degree of pain every time he swallowed any of his medicine.—Nov. 12th. The ulcer of the throat was beginning to spread; the florid hue was disappearing; and the lardaceous surface returning; the scab on the eyebrow was encreasing very rapidly; the night pains were much as before; but, what gave him the greatest uneasiness now, was a pain immediately below the knee of the right leg, which felt like an incipient node: No inconvenience had arisen from his medicine.—Nov. 28th. The size of the scab had increased very much, the base of the ulcer was becoming moist, and its elevated and inflamed edges appeared spreading on every side. Upon examining the throat, two distinct ulcers were perceived; the one corroding the uvula and extending along the velum pendulum palati, the other upon the opposite tonsil. He complained that, during the night, his hands felt very hot, and that several spots had appeared on them: These were venereal eruptions, similar to those on his body. His leg gave him unsupportable pain

pain ; and, in short, the disease was exercising its baneful influence with encreased violence. During the exhibition of the nitrous acid in the above manner, I could not discern any alteration in the actions of the system ; the state of the pulse and tongue, the action of the skin, rectum, and kidneys, was not affected in the least. A consultation was proposed ; the result of which was, that the patient should take the following mixture every day.

R Acidi nitrosi ʒij *pond.*

Theriac. com. ʒiv

Aq. puræ ʒxxviii *M.*

This plan was pursued until the 2nd of December. The ulcers of the throat continued spreading every day, and that on the eyebrow appeared to threaten the eye. DR. ROWLEY and MR. PHILLIPS were now determined to lay aside the nitrous acid and return to mercury, which was accordingly done. No sooner was the mercury introduced into the habit, than the man began to mend apace.—The eruptions, upon which the acid had no effect, disappeared in ten days ; his pains abated rapidly ; and, in three weeks, the large ulcer on the eyebrow was healed. A cough and ptyalism, however, troubled him for some time.

CASE

C A S E II.

MARMADUKE HARPER, aged 22, a strong but lean man, with dark hair and a healthy complexion, by trade a carpenter, contracted (about five years back) a chancre on the glans penis, and a considerable bubo in the groin, which suppurated. He continued his work with little inconvenience, and the chancre healed; but the bubo remaining open for upwards of two months, he sought for admission into *ST. THOMAS'S Hospital*. Upon relating the history of his disease, he rubbed in the mercurial ointment until his mouth became very sore, when he desisted. The bubo was soon healed; but he was detained near six weeks in the hospital, on account of the ptyalism continuing: He was then discharged, and had every reason to believe he was perfectly cured. I could not ascertain the quantity of ointment he had employed; all that the man recollected was, that his mouth soon became sore, and that he then laid aside its use. From that time to within a month of the present (25th of November, 1797) he had enjoyed good health, and had every reason to believe he never had acquired the disease since. The nature of his amours, he said, were such as to give him

him every reason to believe that he had never been exposed to it. At the latter end of September last his face began to break out, and his throat gave him pain when he swallowed. His nightly repose was disturbed by a pain in his head, which always came on when he got warm, and constantly left him before five in the morning. He had no pains in the legs of any consequence. He complained that he had pains all over ; but those of his head only gave him much uneasiness. The eruptions on the face, forehead, breast, and back, were hard and elevated, like a spilt pea, and of a copper colour : Their size and situation varied ; some were as large as a fourpenny piece, others very small : In some places they were many together ; but about the neck and ear there were none. The fauces appeared in general inflamed. The left tonsil was entirely destroyed, by an ulcer which extended along the velum pendulum palati : The right was much swollen, and had three or four ulcerations on its surface. The uvula was extremely relaxed, but not ulcerated. The ulcerations of the fauces exhibited cupped and lardaceous surfaces, with callous (apparently) and ragged edges. In this state the man began the nitrous acid, on the 24th of November, 1797, in the following manner.

R Acidi

R Acidi nitrosi ʒij

Theriac. com. ʒiv

Aq. puræ ʒxxviiij M.

The whole of this was to be given in the course of the day.—Nov. 29th. The medicine produced no inconvenience ; the disease was encreasing; the eyes were inflamed ; he complained of having caught cold, and that “ his nose was very much stuffed.” It was presumed, from his mode of articulating, that some internal part of the nose was now affected. The man was anxious to be bled ; which was accordingly done, to eight ounces. The state of the pulse, tongue, and skin, was precisely as before. I imagined he had a continual diaphoresis ; but *that* he said was peculiar to him. The secretion from the kidneys, however, since he began the medicine, was much augmented, and his bowels were very costive, a circumstance he had never experienced before. The medicine was now increased.

R Acidi nitrosi ʒiij

Theriacæ com. ʒvj

Aq. puræ ℥ij M.

To be taken every day.—Dec. 6. The throat appeared much as before. The surface of the ulcers was more florid and painful. The night pains were encreasing

creasing in violence. The nose was still very troublesome. The tongue was now very white; the gums appeared swelled, their edges were ulcerated, and when punctured with the lancet they bled profusely. The pulse was more frequent, beating one hundred in a minute, which was 20 more than ordinary. The bowels were evacuated occasionally by an opening pill; and at the desire of the man, a blister had been applied, the evening before, behind each ear.—Dec. 12th. There was no apparent benefit derived from the medicine, with respect to the alleviation of the pain or size of the ulcers; yet, their appearance was changed. The surfaces, before lardaceous, (i. e. covered with a coat of tenacious matter like lard) were of florid hue, but the edges were still serrated and apparently callous. He complained that his medicine went rather against him; but said he would persevere, and do any thing to get well. I ordered him as follows:

R Acidi nitrosi ʒiv

Theriacæ com. ʒx

Aq. puræ ℥ij M.

To be taken every day—Dec. 20th. He continued until this time to take his medicine, though with great reluctance, saying it would do him no good

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and that it made his throat worse. The pains he thought were much as usual; he was confident they were not relieved. The eruptions on the face, particularly on the sides of his nose, were getting much worse, and two on his forehead were covered by a hard and brown crust. The ulcers on the right side had now totally destroyed the tonsil, and were much enlarged in size; but, not the least in depth. The pulse was generally at one hundred and twenty; the tongue white, moist, and furred; the bowels continued costive, and the kidneys to secrete copiously. The man, who believed that he was taking mercury all this time, begged to have his medicine changed to pills; but being informed that his disease was of a very obstinate nature, and that he would soon experience benefit from his drink, he freely acquiesced in its continuance; and, to please him, he was also ordered a bread pill three times a day.—Dec. 24th. The man was much worse, inasmuch as he complained of more pain, and that the eruptions on the face and forehead were much increased. The ulcers of the throat were becoming very foul and extending in depth. It was, under these circumstances, judged proper, by Dr. ROWLEY, Mr. PHILLIPS, and myself, to lay aside the nitrous acid and use mercury.—He obtained
by

by its means a perfect cure in two months, becoming every day better.

C A S E III.

REBECCA ALDERMAN, aged 40, the mother of seventeen children, of a strong habit of body, and by trade a washer-woman, believed (near six months ago) she was infected with a gonorrhæa by her husband, who, she found was then under the care of a medical gentleman for that disorder. Through her husband's persuasion, she took a few pills which he obtained her; the scalding and discharge left her in about a month, and she believed herself perfectly well. Six months having elapsed, she was seized with pains in the bones of her legs, and in her head. The pains soon became general; and an eruption appeared on the forehead, face, breast, and arms. They continued increasing, and her pains were so excessive as to make her dread going into bed. The blotches on her skin were of a mixed nature; many, especially those about her nose and lips, were hard, elevated, and red; whilst those on the other parts appeared situated in the rete mucosum, of a copper colour, causing no elevation of the skin, and differing very much in their size, some being as broad as a seven

shilling piece and others as small as pins heads. She had applied to several gentlemen of the faculty; all of whom made her sensible of the nature of her disease, and advised her to gain admittance into an hospital.—On the 6th of Nov. 1797, she came to this place, and told the particulars of her situation.

The medical gentlemen did not hesitate a moment to declare her case to be venereal; such were the nature of the eruptions, which are better known by an apt eye than by all the description that can be given on paper. She was judged a proper person for the trial of the nitrous acid: Accordingly, she began the medicine the next morning, in the following manner:

R Acidi nitrosi ℥ij

Theriac. com. ℥iv

Aq. puræ ℥xxviiij M.

The whole of this was given to her in the course of the day.—Nov. 10th. The medicine had been taken without any inconvenience; and no apparent alteration in the actions of the system, or the disease, could be detected.—Nov. 18th. The pains were as violent as before; the eruptions, if any thing, appeared less, but particularly those which were elevated

vated and hard. The pulse was increased in velocity. The bowels were very costive : The tongue rather white.

R Pil. Rufi gr. xv. Fiant Pil. iij
pro re nata sumend.

Nov. 20th. No alteration for the better ; she said her pains were worse.

R Acidi nitrosi ℥iij
Sacchar. fusc. ℥viiij
Aq. puræ ℥xxxvj M.

To be given as usual.—Nov. 23rd. The bowels continue very costive ; the pains rather better ; the eruptions as before ; the pulse one hundred per minute ; the tongue white, moist, and furred. The opening pills were repeated, and the medicine continued.—Nov. 25th. The pains so violent as to prevent her closing her eyes all night. No alteration in the appearance of the eruptions.

R Acidi nitrosi ℥iijfs
Theriacæ com. ℥viiij
Aq. puræ ℥xxxviiij M.

To be drank as usual.—Nov. 28th. The pains unsupportable ; no alteration in the appearance of the eruptions ; the pulse one hundred and eight ; the tongue white, moist, and furred in its middle ; *but the*
sides

sides as ordinary, which appearance I think is peculiar to those who take oxygenated substances.

R Acidi nitrosi ℥iv

Theriacæ com. ℥x

Aq. puræ ℥xxxviii M.

To be taken as usual.—Dec. 1st. The pains very violent; the elevated eruptions much better; the state of the system as before; a continually moist skin.

R Acidi nitrosi ℥v

Aq. puræ ℥xl

Theriac. com. ℥bj M.

To be given as before. The bowels continuing very costive, the pills were repeated.—Dec. 6th. The medicine had made her sick two mornings; but she diluted it and proceeded, though very contrary to her inclination, as she conceived it made her pains worse and made her ill all over. The pulse was very full, and beating one hundred and twenty per minute; the skin continually moist; the secretion from the kidneys increased; the gums swelled, and ulcerated along their margin; the eyes were very red, and the skin in general appeared rather of a florid cast; the bowels costive. DR. ROWLEY and MR. PHILLIPS were of opinion, that during the exhibition of the
medicine

medicine she had got much worse : She was therefore ordered to begin the mercurial ointment, which appeared to act like a charm. The pains soon left her; the eruptions gradually disappeared; and in a month she obtained a perfect cure.

Such, Sir, were the nature of the cases in which the nitrous acid was administered, and such the effects of its exhibition : I shall not presume to make any comment upon them. I have barely stated facts; the truth of which DR. ROWLEY and MR. PHILLIPS well know, and the several medical gentlemen who occasionally honoured us with their presence, among whom I reckon yourself.

Concerning the efficacy of the OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH, I shall be very short; as I have *never succeeded in ONE instance.*

C A S E IV.

HANNAH HAILLET, a young woman with a child at the breast, labouring under large venereal ulcerations in the fauces and internal part of the nose, to that degree that the greatest part of the fluid she attempted to swallow returned through the nares.

I ex-

I exhibited the potash for six weeks, without experiencing the least amendment. At first I was inclined to think she was benefited by its use ; but the increase of the ulcerations, and the advancement of some mischief within the cavity of the nose, soon convinced me of my error. I began with half a drachm per diem, and increased it to nearly a drachm. The effects upon the system were similar to those produced by the nitrous acid ; such as increased arterial motion, white and furred tongue, and, in this case, *very great irritability*.

To enumerate several analogous cases would afford no further information, as the event was in *ALL similar to the above*. I shall therefore conclude with the following observations.

1. That the quantity of these remedies was given by weight, and prepared by my own hands.
2. That a confidential person was deputed to give the medicines to the sick persons.
3. That the nitrous acid was obtained from Apothecaries Hall, and the oxygenated muriate of potash

ash from Messrs. Usher and Speed, of Cannon Street, the persons recommended by Mr. Cruickshank, of Woolwich.

SECTION the Third. *Communications by Dr. Lidderdale, Dr. Buchan junior, Mr. Hope, Mr. De Bruyn, and Dr. Rollo.*

I. *A Letter from DR. LIDDERDALE.*

SIR,

The following is the case I promised to send you : Perhaps it might have reached you a day or two sooner ; but that I wished to see the patient himself, to ascertain some circumstances more accurately. To day he called upon me.

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I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant

H. LIDDERDALE.

Paternoster-Row,

Dec. 1, 1797.

“ The gentleman who is the subject of this case, had, under my care, used mercury to that extent, both as to time and quantity, which has been thought adequate to the cure of the venereal disease in the most obstinate of its forms: He had also been under the care of others. The symptoms had readily disappeared, upon the exhibition of that medicine; but hitherto the result has shewn that though the disease had disappeared, it was not overcome. About two months after he had left off the use of mercury, and upon his return from sea bathing, I found an eruption on the skin, exactly similar to the former; but without any other symptom. The eruption had made its first appearance about a week before, and was gradually advancing.—As I entertained no doubt of its being the recurrence of a disease which had so long and so obstinately resisted the usual modes of cure, I was desirous of trying a method which had been ushered into the world with so fair a character, and such high expectations. He was desired to take sixty drops of the nitrous acid daily, in a pint of linseed tea, encreasing the quantity five drops each day.—His general health, which was much mended since his residence in the country, continued to improve; the eruption put on a more favourable appearance, becam

became more deadened, and shewed a considerable tendency to heal. My hopes were now pretty sanguine; but about a fortnight after the commencement of this practice, when the medicine had been encreased to one hundred and thirty drops, the blotches became stationary; new ones, though slowly, began to appear; and, in a few days after, pain with enlargement on the middle of the shin bones. The pain continued to encrease so as to make his nights uneasy and restless, and the eruption was making more rapid progress; his appearance had altered for the worse, and his health was upon the decline.— After having persevered in the use of the acid for a month in the whole, at one hundred and thirty drops per day, I thought it high time to desist.

He has now taken mercury for somewhat more than a fortnight: The eruption has almost entirely disappeared; the pain of the skin is no otherwise perceptible than by an occasional itching in the part; his looks and health are much improved; and there seems to be a greater probability of a cure, as his health is better and his strength much greater than at the commencement of any former course of mercury. In general, the acid agreed with him well; but, a few

1 2

days

days at first it produced slight gripes and purging, which went off without medical assistance.

Little can be collected from this solitary case: The acid seemed to possess beneficial qualities; but, by no means equal to the cure of this disease in its most advanced and obstate stages, with unequivocal symptoms. He complained of soreness of the gums; which I rather suppose was owing to the irritation produced by the acid when taken into the mouth, than to any specific quality it possesses to affect these parts, when carried there in the course of the circulation.—Perhaps this was not the most effectual of the new remedies; but, it has its abettors. I have been deterred by the above failure, from employing any of the others, till a more general consent shall establish their character.”

July the 9th.—*Dr. Lidderdale* informs me that he has lately had a still more satisfactory proof of the inefficacy of nitrous acid, and the great superiority of mercury, in *secondary symptoms* of Syphilis. He likewise mentions, that the gentleman, whose case has been related above, is “ perfectly well.”

II. *A Letter from DR. BUCHAN Junior.*

DEAR SIR,

In answer to the question you asked me the last time we met, "Whether I had made any trials with the nitrous acid, for the cure of venereal complaints, and with what success?" I send you the subsequent case, of which I kept a journal at the time.

From the time I first heard of the use of the nitric acid in India, I was eager to make trial of it; because it seemed to corroborate some theoretic speculations, that had long been floating in my mind, concerning the mode in which mercury acted in curing the venereal disease.

On the 9th of February, 1797, RICHARD RAFERTY, a black-smith applied to me for the cure of a venereal complaint. There were two chancres on the glans, discharging rather more than usual, and some dry scales on the prepuce. The infection had been contracted about three weeks. He had been diseased about three years before, and cured in an hospital, where he was salivated. A re-
petition

petition of such a course he seemed very much to dread, and was eager to be cured without it if possible. I considered him as a very fit person to try the acid with; both because there could be no doubt of the existence of the disease, and that, not being wholly ignorant of the nature of the complaint, he could the more accurately mark its progress.

I gave him an ounce of *nitric* acid, diluted with an equal quantity of water; and desired him to take forty drops, or a small tea spoonful four times a day, in a proper quantity of water. The first dose he took in my presence.—On the 13th I saw him again. The chancres had spread considerably; and discharged much. He said the medicine made him pass a great deal of urine, and encreased his appetite.—On the 18th, he called and told me he had taken all his medicine. The day before, he had been much purged and griped, which he attributed to it; he also complained of always feeling his teeth on edge. The disease had gained ground, and there was an incipient paraphymosis. I again gave him an equal quantity of acid, diluted in like manner with water, to be used as formerly.—In four or five days he called again, said he thought he was weakened by passing so much urine,

urine, and complained of his mouth being painful. On examination, the inside of the cheeks appeared of a brighter red than usual, and somewhat excoriated; but there was nothing either of that appearance of the gums, or peculiar smell, denoting mercurial affection. The prepuce was now so much swelled and so painful, that I did not think it justifiable to persist longer in the use of the acid. He then began the use of mercury, and got well in about a month.

During the whole time of his using the acid, the disease seemed to hold exactly the same progress, which it would have done, had no medicine whatever been taken. Though much stress is not to be laid on one case; yet, as my situation forbids a variety of trials, from the one now detailed I think myself at liberty to conclude, that the acid is not to be depended on: And, if it were, that much would not be gained; as the various disagreeable sensations of which this man complained, allowing that he told the truth, (and I have no reason to suspect him of falsehood,) were at least equivalent to those attendant on such a course of mercury as is usually required to remove similar symptoms.

In the course of the last summer, a gentleman under my care took three ounces of nitric acid, in the course of as many weeks; to try its effects on an enlargement of the tibia, for which he had in vain used several courses of mercury. It produced no effect on the complaint, but considerably augmented the discharge of urine, and encreased his appetite. He complained greatly of its unpleasant effects in altering the sensation of the teeth.

I am, Sir,

with much respect, your's

A. P. BUCHAN.

Store-Street, Bedford-Square,

Jan. 2nd 1798.

III. In a letter from MR. HOPE, of *Chatham*, dated the 10th of March 1798, he informs me that, although he had observed a considerable change to be induced in the appearance of venereal sores by giving the nitrous acid, he “ had not been able to “ discover real and permanent benefit in any individual instance:” But, in a patient who had suffered severely from this disease, and in whom the virus was destroyed by mercury, he says, “ the “ nitrous acid produced an healthy appearance in the

“ the metatarsal bones, which were exposed, very
“ foul, and stunk intolerably ; the parts also became
“ healed, and perfectly cicatrized.”

IV. MR. DE BRUYN, of *North Audley Street*,
has communicated to me the outlines of “ a case of
“ *secondary symptoms*, in which half a dram of the
“ nitric acid was given daily for a week, and then en-
“ creased to a dram. This was taken every day for
“ a fortnight : But, before the expiration of that time,
“ the lues appeared in the nose ; the acid was then
“ left off, and mercury was had recourse to, which
“ in a few days arrested the progress of the disease.”

V. *A Letter from DR. ROLLO, announcing that
“ upwards of seventy additional cases have been cured
by the new remedies.*

DEAR SIR,

Woolwich, 3d of May, 1798.

I am very happy to learn that
the first part of your Essays on the venereal disease
is in the press. I am preparing a new edition of my
work on Diabetes, &c. in which will be introduced
additional facts in support of the subjects treated of
in the first : But, as your work must be in the pos-

session of the public before mine, with pleasure I communicate, at your request, the general result of our experience, since our former publication on the subject of the new remedies in Lues Venerea.

In that work, thirty-two cases, where the new remedies were employed, are detailed. Since them, UPWARDS OF SEVENTY ADDITIONAL CASES HAVE BEEN CURED, BY THE NITROUS ACID, OR OXYGENATED MURIATE OF POTASH. As yet, no case of relapse has been detected. A few cases have been treated with mercury and the new remedies combined, and the result has been favourable to such a combination.

On the whole we alledge, from our experience, that the new remedies are successful in the removal of Lues Venerea, and are infinitely less prejudicial than mercury to the constitution ; and, so far as we have gone, a proper and varied exhibition of them, with an attention to particular circumstances, may be relied on *generally* in the treatment of the disease ; and that a combination of them with mercury, is probably more certain and safe than by mercury alone.

Some

Some peculiar cases have occurred, which, with the particular circumstances absolutely necessary to be attended to in the successful exhibition of the new remedies, will be described in the edition of the work now preparing for the press.

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With much respect, I am, dear Sir,

Your obliged servant,

J. ROLLO.

To Mr. Blair,
Great Russel-street.

On the 27th of June, Dr. Rollo wrote to me that several more venereal patients had been cured by the new remedies, since the date of his last letter: But, he has not entered into a particular detail of the symptoms and stage of the disease; upon which, I presume, the intrinsic value of the evidence must entirely depend. I am happy, however, to announce that so considerable a body of facts, is upon the eve of being communicated to the world: The respectability and liberal sentiments of the gentlemen at Woolwich Hospital, must necessarily have raised a favourable expectation in the public mind, concerning any thing they may intend for the press, upon this subject.

SECTION the Fourth. *Communications from Dr. Thornton, Physician to the General Dispensary; with an extract of a letter from his correspondents in America and France.*

Bennet-Street, St. James's, June 20, 1798.

SIR,

I had the honour of your polite letter, and am very ready to send you any communication in my power. I have always been, as my friends know, a *matter of fact man*, and theory has been with me, but the explanation of *facts*. If I have theorised much, it has always been with a view to generalise and explain *facts*. The subject under your ordeal, I conceive to be, “ what part different substances containing OXYGEN take in the cure of syphilis, during “ all its stages.” It is an allowed *fact* that you may swallow with safety 12 ounces of pure mercury; whereas 12 grains of muriated mercury, or any other oxyd of mercury, (i. e. mercury combined with *oxygen*) will produce the most violent, if not, fatal effects. If *oxygen* air, inhaled by the lungs; or *oxygen* combined with other radicles, as in the nitrous or marine acids, &c. should be found to be a specific, or counter-agent,

to

to the venereal poison; we should then arrive at a general conclusion, that it was the *oxygen* which cured from its own native powers. I am sure you will give the evidence impartially, with respect to all the different agents containing *oxygen* which have lately been employed in syphilis, and concenter into one point of view widely scattered facts; so that each person will be enabled to draw a conclusion for himself; and the true philosopher, who should have no party-bias, must be pleased to view nature as she is.

Knowing from the confession of numberless authors, and from my own experience, the dangers which often arise from the exhibition of the common forms of mercury in certain constitutions, and that this remedy is sometimes as much to be dreaded as the disease in question, I confess I should be happy if the inquisitive spirit of the present age should discover some more innocent agents, if equally as powerful. With this view I ventured from the beaten path, and will give you faithfully the result of my own experience.

In the case of syphilis I sent to Dr. Beddoes in the spring of 1795, where all the known combinations of
mercury

mercury produced such dire effects, that they could not be employed so as to eradicate the disease, I made use of two *new powers*; one was the inhalation of *oxygen air*, the other *a decomposition of muriated mercury by means of bark*. (b) As the clear decoction of bark upon receiving a few grains of muriated mercury immediately loses its colour, becomes turbid, and a precipitation takes place; and, as the tartrate of antimony fails in a great deal of its emetic power by the same combination, it was reasonable for *Berthollet*, (c) who first discovered that muriated mercury

(b) The formula prescribed in that case was as follows.

R. Hydr. muriat. gr. 2

Decoct. Cinchon. unc. 5

Tinct. Cinchon. comp. unc. 3

Cinchon. pulv. dr. 2—Fiat Mist.

Cap. coch. larg. i, primo mane, horâ x, matutinâ, horâ vi, vespere, et horâ somni.

(c) Vide La médecine éclairée par les sciences physiques, ou Journal des Découvertes, &c. vol. I. page 261. Article " Observations sur la décomposition du tartrate de potasse antimonié, ou tartre émétique, et du muriate mercurial corrosif, ou sublimé corrosif, par quelques substances végétales, lues à l'Académie des sciences en Mars 1791. par MONS. BERTHOLLET."—The express words of this eminent chemist, to which *Dr. Thornton* alludes,

are

cury was decomposed by bark, to conjecture that this might be an useful discovery to the surgeon: But, I believe, I am the first who has put it to the test of actual experiment.

The result of my *first trial* is well known, the patient was soon cured ; whereas the case for two years before had baffled the skill of the ablest practitioners. In a variety of instances I have since tried, what I shall call the precipitate of mercury; and I have much pleasure to find, that when the solution would not agree, this, on the contrary, produced the most
salutary

are “ Quoique la combinaison de l'oxide de mercure et
“ de la substance amère et colorante du quinquina ne
“ doive plus avoir des *propriétés caustiques*, il est pos-
“ sible qu'elle conserve sa vertu *antisiphilitique*, dont
“ nous ignorons jusqu' à présent la cause. On peut se
“ procurer facilement de pareilles combinaisons, en
“ versant une dissolution de nitrate de mercure avec la
“ plupart des substances végétales: J'en ai mêlé avec
“ les infusions de rhubarb, de senné, de quinquina, de
“ chicorée sauvage ; et j'en ai obtenu un précipité
“ abondant. La liqueur qui surnage, a perdu la plus
“ grande partie de sa saveur. Ces précipités, bien lavés,
“ présenteroient peut-être des avantages qu'on n'a point
“ encore trouvés dans les préparations qui ont été tentées
“ jusqu' a présent.”

salutary effects ; and, whether inhaling the oxygen air, or not, the patients under me have always been restored. In almost every instance, the constitution has likewise been not only *not injured*, but *often improved*.

I had lately a patient along with MR. BUTLEY, of *Bury-street*, who contracted this disease from her husband, a sailor ; where there was a dreadful ulceration eating deep into the fauces near the uvula, a difficulty in swallowing, the speech inarticulate, and, being confined to her bed, she seemed at the last extremity. The precipitated mercury was employed ; an opiate was ordered at night ; the bowels occasionally opened ; the patient was out of bed in a week, and in a fortnight more, there was no appearance of ulceration. A cure was soon after effected.

I had nearly about the same time a most amiable lady for a patient, who had also contracted this disease from the blind folly of an indiscrete husband : She was of a very delicate frame, and had been under the care of a reputed good practitioner. He at first threw in mercury, so as soon to put the whole system into disorder ; mercury was of course left off ; an excursion to the sea side was recommended : The

same

same bold measure was again employed, but was soon dropt ; and the dreadful disease still lurked in a frame now completely broken up : The uvula was nearly destroyed : There were several foul ulcerations in the fauces : The speech was inarticulate ; and there was a pain along the bridge of the nose. At this period I was called in ; and, by the gentle operation of the precipitate of mercury, the patient also inhaling twenty quarts of vital air, mixed with thirty of atmospheric, daily, the constitution was brought round, the ulcerations healed ; and, lastly, employing mercury in the common forms for ten days, (as the last grand attack), I completely routed the enemy, and this lady has since enjoyed very good health.—The usual practice with me has been to employ the precipitate of mercury, until all the symptoms had wholly, or nearly disappeared, the constitution all this while generally remaining uninjured ; at the end I push on the common forms of mercury, so as well to impregnate the constitution, and then, I reckon, that a complete cure is accomplished.

I should tire you, were I to relate more testimonies, and it would be needless, when you have such fine opportunities of putting this plan to the test of

your own experience ; besides, I know you are impatient to hear the result of the trials with the OXYGEN AIR ALONE, for the removal of syphilis. —The FIRST CASE that occurred was what I supposed to be chancre ; and, in a few days, by inhaling thirty quarts a day of the vital air mixed with as many of atmospheric air, the patient was cured.

The NEXT was a case of open bubo, eruptions on the face, eyelids, and over the whole body, with nocturnal pains in the bones. This patient, two months before, had undergone a course of mercury. The effect of the vital air was, that the eruptions in a few days, from a copper colour, became of a dusky red, and lastly of a bright red, and went away from his face like a charm ; the bubo was healed, *but the nocturnal pains continued as bad as ever.* After six weeks, not finding the pain in the bones diminished, I thought it proper to have recourse to mercury in the usual form : He was now soon completely cured.

I had THIRDLY, a case of nodes with *Mr. Seaton*, surgeon, where the oxygen air was first tried alone. This was a married woman with a large family,

family, of a very delicate habit, with evident marks of scrophula. She had nodes; for, it is a misfortune for virtuous women, that when they contract this disease, they are generally ignorant of the true cause, and it is not sufficiently perceived, until it has run some of its stages, and becomes one of the most dreadful among the catalogue of human ills. She said, she slept better the first night, and had less pain: Afterwards *she complained as much as ever*; but, not satisfied myself of any amendment, I ordered her the precipitated mercury, and finally mercurial pills. I saw her the other day cured, and looking very well.

Another trial, THE FOURTH, which I made of the oxygen air, was in the case of a young man recommended to me by *Mr. Hanby*, of Piccadilly. He had never taken mercury in his life. After a few days trial of the super-oxygenated air, his chancre appeared in an healing condition; the air was then left off, the sore encreased; it was resumed, the same amendment followed; and this was constantly the result for five weeks, when I continued the vital air daily, in the quantity of twenty quarts of oxygen air mixed with thirty of atmospheric, till he was completely cured. One day I gave him *fifty quarts* of vital air; and his

pulse, which was sixty-eight, rose after the inhalation to an hundred and ten. The different states and progress of this case were shewn to several medical friends: Some said that the sores were decidedly chancres, others *mere excoriations*; therefore, there is nothing in it determinate; nor am I at present satisfied of the antivenereal effects of oxygen air, any farther than as giving a better disposition of health, and thence enabling mercury to have more power; as also from its effect of encreasing the animal heat: For it is a common, and I believe, true observation, that less mercury need be used in summer than in winter. It has therefore appeared to me an *useful adjunct*: *Of its antivenereal effects ALONE I am sorry, that THE QUESTION IS YET TO BE DECIDED by unequivocal facts.*

It remains now only to say a few words about the NITROUS ACID. I have experienced its use, when mercury has been discontinued and then again resumed. The following is a strong case in point.—A gentleman for two years had taken mercury in London, under very eminent practitioners, without much benefit; when I recommended him the nitrous acid, which was tried for six weeks without any advantage. Mercury was therefore again had recourse to; and,
in

in a few weeks a permanent cure was accomplished, which before had baffled the power of mercury for upwards of two years. This was a case of nodes.—Wishing you every success in your laudable undertaking,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

ROBERT JOHN THORNTON.

P. S. I very early wrote to many eminent characters abaoad, to unite their endeavours in trying the new and supposed antivenereal remedies; thinking that the result of different new applications, by philosophic men, in different countries, was the best way of ascertaining, and of speedily establishing, the truth. The answer I have recently obtained from AMERICA and FRANCE is not so flattering as I could wish.

“ Half the benefit (says my correspondent) that
“ might flow from public institutions are denied us
“ from a want of sufficient funds. The people in
“ this country (*America*) are all comfortably rich; but,
“ exorbitant wealth accumulated in few hands, which,

“ at

“ at the impulse of vanity, or superstition, or charity,
“ creates great establishments, endowes colleges, and
“ portions hospitals, scarcely exists among us : And
“ legislative bounty is still restricted to more obvious
“ calls upon it, and to the daily and urgent ne-
“ cessities of a new country. Hence, among other
“ deficiencies, our hospitals are sparingly supplied
“ with those various instruments, which are so ne-
“ cessary to the effectual combat of disease. With
“ every wish to institute experiments, and very good
“ dispositions towards them, the want of a *pneumatic*
“ *apparatus* has hitherto prevented any proper trials
“ of the factitious air being made. We are in
“ hopes, however, of soon overcoming this diffi-
“ culty : Yet here, as with you, opposition to new
“ things is always made; but, the opposers have not
“ the same influence as with you.—*The new an-*
“ *tisiphylitic remedies* have been very little tried.
“ In the last six months some experience was gained;
“ but, THE EVENT DID NOT ANSWER OUR EX-
“ PECTATIONS. For a time every thing was pro-
“ mising, and I wrote favourably to DR. BEDDOES;
“ but whether something was neglected, or our prac-
“ titioners were too easily discouraged, *the remedies*
“ *were soon changed, or mixed with mercury.* How-
“ ever,

“ ever, all seemed to concur that *the effects of mercury were greatly aided by the nitrous acid.* Fresh trials have been instituted, where the nitrous acid will be tried alone, and the result I will send you.”

My correspondent in FRANCE writes me, that the nitrous acid has been tried *there with doubtful success*; and that a prize is instituted by the Society of medicine at PARIS, to determine the effects of oxygen air for the removal of diseases, when no doubt syphilis will have its share of proper investigation.

To Mr. Blair,
Great Russel Street.

SECTION the Fifth. *Two letters from Dr. Mitchell, the Garrison Surgeon at Chatham; mentioning the result of his experience in ninety cases of Lues Venerea, wherein the nitrous acid had been given.*

THE following observations were sent by DR. MITCHELL to MR. KEATE, *the Surgeon general of his Majesty's forces*; who favoured me with the perusal and use of them: They were accompanied

panied with a number of venereal cases, in most of which the *nitrous acid* had been administered with advantage; but, as they were all of one kind, (i. e. with primary symptoms,) it has been deemed superfluous to detail them at full length in this Essay. When Dr. M. sent his first communication, "*There were ABOVE SEVENTY CASES in which the nitrous acid had been successfully employed for the cure of the venereal disease, in his Majesty's Hospital at CHATHAM.*"—The symptoms were mostly chancres and excoriations of the prepuce or glans, foul ulcers on the body of the penis, warts, gonorrhæa, bubo, and swelled testicle.—In about half a dozen cases, it was necessary to conjoin mercury."

It appears, from the account of the cases which I had an opportunity of examining, that the average period of each patient having been infected, when he began to take the nitrous acid, was *twenty-nine days*; that the medium quantity of the acid taken, was *eighty-one drams*; and, that the average lapse of time during which they were under the treatment, was *nearly seven weeks*.—DR. MITCHELL'S letter to MR. KEATE concludes in these words, "*The nitrous acid has been employed in a considerable*

siderable number of cases beside those transmitted; in many, with benefit; in others it has *completely failed*.

Only one example has occurred where it was exhibited after the *secondary symptoms* had shown themselves: In this case the disease appeared in extensive ulcerations in the throat and roof of the mouth; the quantity was pushed to three drams in the day, and continued for three weeks, without producing any benefit; at last it gave such intolerable pain to the fauces, and produced so much nausea and vomiting, that it was given up. The sores healed under the exhibition of mercury, but soon after broke out again: They are now a second time nearly healed, under a course of the *mercurius sublimatus corrosivus*, conjoined with a decoction of sarsaparilla and mezereon.

A good deal seems to depend upon having this medicine properly prepared; that used here, was chiefly made under my own eye. When given diluted with water only, it is apt to produce in some instances sickness and griping: This was in a great measure obviated by the addition of some ardent
M spirit,

spirit, sugar, and mucilage; or by the occasional administration of an opiate. I seldom could exceed the quantity of two drams, given daily.

Its sensible effects were, to encrease the appetite and the flow of urine; the latter was an uniform effect of it: In two cases only, were there any appearances of salivation. In some instances the constitution appeared to be improved by it; and, from its encreasing the appetite, several men gained flesh.

When the nitrous acid succeeds in removing the disease, it is speedy in changing the appearances for the better: In ten days or a fortnight the alteration was often remarkable: If the symptoms were not much mended after a fortnight's use, it seldom did good, the disease remained stationary; and, from my experience, I think it should not be persevered in longer, if an amendment at the expiration of this period is not visible.

Of late I have given it conjoined with mercury; and it appears to me to aid its effect, a smaller quantity of the mineral subduing the disease: But, my trials are not yet sufficiently numerous to establish this fact.

fact. I have witnessed several relapses, after patients have been dismissed seemingly cured by the acid; the same, however, may be said when the disease has been apparently removed by mercury.

Upon the whole, the result of my observation is, that the nitrous acid has in many instances a powerful influence upon the disease, *in its first stages*; THAT IN OTHERS, IT FAILS IN PRODUCING ANY SALUTARY OPERATION; that with proper management, it may become an useful auxiliary to mercury; but, until we have acquired more experience of the peculiarities of the disease for which it is adapted, *it will not be prudent to trust the cure to it alone.*

A. MITCHELL."

Chatham,

March 4, 1798.

After the foregoing communication was sent to the press, I wrote to DR. MITCHELL, requesting the favour of him to inform me what *farther* observations he had made on the effects of the nitrous acid: He immediately obliged me with the following explicit and candid answer; which not only serves to corroborate several particulars above mentioned, but

contains some additional and very interesting intelligence.

A Second Letter from DR. MITCHELL.

Chatham Barracks, July 9, 1798.

SIR,

I beg of you to accept my thanks for the first part of your Essays upon the venereal disease; which I have just received, but have not yet had leisure to peruse.

It is certainly unnecessary, as you very properly observe, to copy *verbatim* the reports of the trials with the nitrous acid which I sent to MR. KEATE; as they were hastily drawn up, and not sufficiently correct to meet the public eye. *The result*, I conceive, will be sufficiently satisfactory, to show what this new remedy performed in my hands.

For these five months past my attention has been much diverted from this subject, in consequence of repeated importations of jail fevers into our barracks from Ireland; to combat which, has required all my efforts :

efforts: The venereal cases consequently fell more immediately under the care of MR. BOLTON, *the Staff-Surgeon* acting here; who, having been accustomed to the successful use of mercury, did not feel himself disposed to depart from the usual plan of treatment.

If I am fortunate enough to have some relaxation from the more important duty of watching over the progress of acute diseases, more immediately threatening life, I propose to make a few other trials with the acid; which I still think has a very considerable influence upon the disease, though the result of my experience does not warrant me to speak of it in so very favourable a way as has been done by some persons.

I have given it in about NINETY CASES, with various success; and my observations upon it may be reduced to the subsequent heads, observing, with a few exceptions, that the cases were chiefly with PRIMARY SYMPTOMS.

1st. In the *gonorrhœa impura* it has proved extremely efficacious; for the most part removing the complaint without the assistance of any other remedy
(except

(except diluents) in the course of ten days, a fortnight, or at most three weeks.

2nd. In cases of excoriation of the glans, attended with a copious puriform discharge, swelling and rawness of the præputium; sometimes with, and sometimes without, a discharge from the urethra; these symptoms have speedily been removed by the use of the nitrous acid, and the failures in this variety of the complaint have been few.

3rd. Chancres upon the glans and præputium have healed, and buboes originating apparently from these symptoms have disappeared, under its use. Two cases of ragged sores, upon the cutis covering the *corpora cavernosa*, got well by taking the same remedy.

4th. In a few instances, ulcerated buboes healed while the patient took the acid; no mercury having been premised, or the quantity taken not sufficient to induce any change.

Such is the evidence which I can bring forward in favour of this new remedy: On the other hand,

1st. It

1st. It failed frequently in cases of chancre ; the sores, after appearing to have a healing aspect for a fortnight, remaining stationary for some weeks, although the remedy was pushed as far as the stomach and bowels would bear it.

2nd. It failed often in dispersing buboes ; the swellings either continuing stationary, or encreasing during its use : And, it was given unsuccessfully in several cases of ulcerated buboes ; the sores remaining in their primitive state.

3rd. It has been administered largely, and its use continued for several weeks, in three cases of confirmed lues, attended with ulcers of the tonsils, nodes, nocturnal pains, and other symptoms of a SECONDARY AFFECTION, *without producing any benefit* : One of these men, an invalid from Gibraltar, who lost the bones of his nose, got well by a course of mercurial friction and the *Decoctum Sarsæ cum Mezereo* ; the other two, still resist every mode of treatment I have yet adopted.

4th. In several instances, patients, after being to appearance cured, had the disease re-appear in the
form

form of chancre and bubo ; and these symptoms were afterwards removed by mercury.

I have frequently conjoined the nitrous acid with mercury, and, as I conceive, *with advantage* ; the disease apparently yeilding to a smaller quantity of the mineral than when given alone : I apprehend that this will ultimately be found to be the safest mode of employing it, both for the patient and the practitioner.

The sensible effects upon the system are in general salutary ; during its administration the appetite is for the most part keen, the discharge of urine is uniformly encreased, all the functions are regularly performed ; and the patient is certainly not subjected to the languor, depression, and emaciation, which attends the exhibition of mercury, when given so as to affect the mouth.

The first exhibitions of it are sometimes apt to disagree with the stomach and bowels : This was in a great measure obviated, by involving it in mucilage and syrup ; and it was rendered palatable by the addition of some ardent spirit: *Gin*, as peculiarly acceptable

acceptable to the palates of most of my patients, was preferred.

In those cases where the acid proved serviceable, the amendment was soon apparent ; a few days showing an evident improvement : On the other hand, if after the daily exhibition of two drams of the concentrated acid for fifteen or twenty days, no evident alleviation of symptoms could be perceived, (as far as my experience went) it should then be abandoned, or mercury called in as an auxiliary.

The acid employed, i. e. the *nitrous*, was principally made here : A great deal seemed to depend upon its being genuine ; as a parcel sent to us from town did not appear to be so efficacious.

Having no theory to support upon this subject, the few remarks I now trouble you with are unbiassed by any prejudice, either for or against this medicine.

I remain, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

A. MITCHELL.

To Mr. Blair,

Great Russel Street.

SECTION the Sixth. *Communications from Mr. Blizard, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Foot, of London.*

I. *A Letter to Mr. Blair, from William Blizard, Esq. F. R. S. and Surgeon of the London Hospital.*

MY DEAR SIR,

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As to the subject of the nitric acid, upon which you are desirous of receiving facts, I can only speak generally. I never recorded any circumstances; having had in view only to ascertain *whether it had the power of destroying the syphilitic disposition in the vascular system?* In NO ONE INSTANCE, though it has been employed by us in many cases, has it manifested such power: Nor has it produced a ptyalism in any instance.

The use of the nitric acid in refreshing the system generally, and particularly in sores, when putrescency is prevalent, is no more than what has been long observed;

observed; and which has been remarked also of the other acids, more especially of the marine.

I am fearful you have been led to expect far more important observations : But, this is really the sum of what I have had opportunities of remarking.

I am much obliged to you for all your friendly attentions, and remain,

Dear Sir,

Your's, most truly,

WILLIAM BEIZARD.

Devonshire Square,

Saturday, July the 14th.

II. *Cases of Lues Venerea, successfully treated with the nitrous acid, by Mr. Charles Brown, Surgeon; communicated in a letter to Mr. Blair.*

SIR,

I do myself the honour of sending you the following case, which is one among several others, in which the nitrous acid has fully answered the opinion I have long held of its antisiphilitic virtue.

I beg leave at the same time to observe, that even before the nitrous acid acquired that celebrity which it so justly has, I had employed other acids, and those acids also contained much oxygene, which they part with readily in the system. It is well known that the basis of these are different, and the only thing which they have in common is *oxygene*. If therefore they should, in our future inquiries, be found all to produce the same or nearly the same effects, on this disease as well as on the constitution, the natural inference is, that this must depend upon their common principle. I am confirmed in this conjecture, in consequence of having been able to effect a cure in a woman labouring under the *secondary* symptoms of the venereal disease, by directing her to inhale, daily, the vital air diluted with atmospherical air, at the same time abstaining from the use of mercury under any form or shape ; and, where patients have been under a course of mercury for a long time, I have known their cures to be accelerated by inhaling the oxygene air at the same time.

Some time back, in a venereal case I had under my care, I tried the oxygenated muriate of kali, a neutral salt, containing much oxygene ; and it cured
the

the patient in three weeks, but left a disagreeable soreness in the mouth ; and upon its first exhibition produced griping and diarrhæa, which soon went off.

WILLIAM SIMMONS put himself under my care, February the 28th, 1798. His symptoms were, phymosis, difficulty in passing his urine, with chordee. He had two chancres behind the glans penis, both large, with high irregular edges, very foul. He had a bubo in his left groin, and the glands in the axilla were enlarged. The discharge from the chancres, he had suffered through neglect to come in contact with the scrotum, which had produced ulcerations, attended with great pain. He had a large cartilaginous excrescence of about two years standing, at the root of the penis, with a discharge of a thick fœtid matter from the urethra, coming from the prostate gland, which was ulcerated. He had a *node* on the tibia in his left leg, with nocturnal pains. His throat had been for some days sore ; but, after examining it attentively, I could not perceive any ulceration.—

March the 1st. I divided the prepuce, to bring the chancres in view, which I dressed with a solution of the hydrarg. mur. Pieces of lint dipped in this solution, were also applied to the sores on the scrotum, and

and renewed twice a day. Gave him *acidi nitr.* ʒiſs in barley water, and *opii grs. ij. h. decubit*—March the 2nd. He has been in great pain all night with the *chordee*, which I ordered to be held over the steam of warm water, *Perstat in usu acidi nitr. & opii gr. ij. h. s.*—3rd. He has had a very good night; his pains much abated; the *chancres* and *excoriations* have a more healthy appearance. *Perstat in usu acidi nitr. ʒij. sing. die, and opii gr. ij. h. s.*—4th. Has had a good night; the discharge from the *urethra* is less in quantity, and not so *fœtid*; the *bubo* is much less in size; he is free from *chordee* to day. The acid agrees very well with him. *Contin. medicinæ ut heri.*—5th. Has slept well; the *chancres* are quite healed. He is better in every respect. *Rep. medicinæ ut heri*—6th. Slept well all night; the *bubo* has nearly disappeared; the discharge from the *urethra* is very trifling; the *node* continues nearly the same; has had shooting pains about the neck of the bladder, but makes water very freely. *Rep. acid. nitr. ʒiſs. sing. die, & opii gr. j. h. s. Decoct. Hordei pro potu communi.*—7th. Is much better to day in every respect. *Medicinæ ut heri præscrip. rep.*—8th. Nearly the same as yesterday, still growing better;

ter; the node is less in size, and feels softer. Rep. *medicinæ ut heri præscript.*—9th. Is amazingly better to day; he has been free from pain all night; the glands in the axilla are of their usual size; he has no discharge from the urethra; the prepuce is quite healed up, and brought over the glans penis. His throat is quite well. Rep. *acid. nitr.*—From this time till the 24th he went on taking the acid, gradually recovering his health, and during the use of it, the excrescence at the root of the penis disappeared. By the 16th of April he was quite recovered, and able to follow his usual occupation, which is that of a porter at a large brewery in the city.

During the progress of cure in the case just related, the appetite was not impaired, no particular regimen was observed; but, he was confined within doors to prevent catching cold. The great quantity of the acid which he took, did not leave any of those ill consequences, which I have so frequently observed are subsequent to a liberal use of mercury. The acid neither affected his gums, fauces, nor intestines, by producing either salivation, vomiting, diarrhæa, or pain; which, in some other cases, where I have used it, it has.

I shall

I shall close these observations by remarking, that from the fair trials which this medicine has had in the practice of very judicious men, where mercury was not administered under any form or shape, I think we are warranted to conclude with DR. BEDDOES, "that there can be little doubt of the power of these substances over the disease in some states;" but whether they be capable of permanently curing the disorder in ALL its stages, can only be determined by future experience, and an unbiassed enquiry among scientific men in the profession.

Believe me to be,

Honoured Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

CHARLES BROWN.

July 20, 1798.

Ely-Place, Holborn.

III. *A Letter from* JESSE FOOT, *Esq.*

Dean Street, 26th of July, 1798.

SIR,

You have invited gentlemen of the profession to come forward with their cases, with their attestations, or opinions, upon the question of
acids

acids curing the Lues Venerea. I do it most cheerfully, because I know your motive to be honourable, and that you have been at the pains *candidly* to investigate it. And surely, as the subject now stands, it appears absolutely necessary, that those who have but little to say upon cases under their own inspection, should have something to say upon the cases, attestations, or opinions, given by others.

The question which we all have a common concern in is, WHETHER ACIDS WILL CURE THE LUES VENEREA PREFERABLY, AND TO A GREATER CERTAINTY, THAN MERCURY? *That* must be at last the result in which the subject is involved, and to which the public at large are to look: And if the public cannot find that question satisfactorily solved, the valuable end of the controversy will not be answered; or perhaps, if that be not the question, there is no valuable intention by the controversy at all.

For myself, I have had but very little experience, in any of the acids; attending no other description of people, than what I find in private practice. But I obtained permission of a friend, to try them upon chancrous patients, at a Dispensary; and found, upon
o enquiry,

enquiry, that *not one* of the patients returned, to whom the medicines were administered. This is rather singular, as the proportion was only began with a drachm of nitrous acid to a quart of water.

I have given nitrous acid myself, but to *one* patient. His case was, two ulcers in the groins, from venereal buboes, of more than seven months standing. The patient took three drachms of nitrous acid in a quart of barley water, for more than two months; the ulcers were also fumigated with the gas of nitrous acid upon marble powder, for a considerable time. At one period, the ulcers seemed to promise fairly; but, they afterwards changed under the acid, and it did not succeed in healing them. This is all I have to say positively upon the question.

It must not be forgotten that vitriolic acid and citric acid have been recommended, for correcting the constitutional effects of mercury, and thereby amending venereal symptoms, long before the idea of acids eradicating the venereal virus had ever been broached. I could instance many authors in proof of this, and myself the last in the number, particularly under the article of bubo.

As

I dare say you will find many more valuable remarks amongst your correspondents, than I have to offer, I shall not trespass too much upon your room, in exclusion of what they will bring forward ; and therefore, shall have but little more to trouble you with. Indeed, from what you have *already done* upon the question, a silent vote is almost sufficient.

The acids should not only cure patients of the Lues Venerea, under the care of those practitioners who have given us cases in their favor ; but, they should also cure the patients of *others*, who have given them as fair a trial,—who are in every respect competent in skill and character,—who have had equal opportunity with those that did cure,—and yet could not cure. What was done successfully at Woolwich, at Plymouth, at Bristol, &c. ought to have been done at the Lock Hospital ; for truth is the same every where.

The advocates for the acids say, that “ if they
“ sometimes fail, it is no more against the remedy
“ than against mercury ; for that mercury sometimes
“ fails also.” In reply to this, I observe, that mer-

cury has not failed (as it clearly appears in evidence before us) to cure those patients which the acids could not.—But this is not the whole of the question; I mean to be understood, as positively asserting, that mercury never fails, *in the end*, to cure every symptom of the Lues Venerea.

The disease might have so far destroyed the constitution, so far exhausted a subject, that life could not go on: But, this is very rare indeed; and every man must know, that such a case must be an exception. Common understanding and experience teach this; and *this* is the only exception to mercury not curing the Lues Venerea.—Will the acids bear a comparison with mercury in this respect?

Whoever has perused the histories of the Lues Venerea, and the remedies for it, will find, that this has not been the first, the second, nor the third attempt, to establish a new antivenereal remedy. It will also be found, that assertions were made as strong by former innovators, as by the present: And, from what I have already read in the present controversy, I am of opinion, that the remedy of the acids will prove ultimately to be a mere innovation.

Logically

Logically speaking, innovation is not improvement; although modern arithmetic wish to have it so. Innovation might, or it might not, lead to improvement. But this new remedy has already stopped short, and cannot be said to have gone into improvement: For when you come to look at the result, there it halts. Innovation should be *silently* made, should wait upon experiment, and should never be proclaimed until improvement be irresistably established: THEN, neither mischief in the application, nor controversial scepticism, could assail it.

In a moral sense, it is very wrong to proclaim innovation as an improvement; especially, when the importance of the question is such as this, where the life and happiness of mankind have an ultimate concern in it.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and humble servant,

JESSE FOOT.

To Mr. Blair,
Great-Russel Street.

SECTION.

SECTION the Seventh. *Letters from Mr. Heaviside,
Dr. Mitchell, and Mr. Leigh Thomas.*

I. *A Letter from John Heaviside, Esq. Surgeon
extraordinary to his Majesty.*

To MR. BLAIR.

DEAR SIR,

You have been pleased to tell me that you think my opinion worthy notice, and have therefore requested it on the effects of the nitric acid in venereal affections. From the professional and personal esteem I have for you, I cannot omit complying with your wishes; though writing, in this way, is not one of my habits.

To give you a detail of the various and numerous cases I have tried it in, would be taking up your time, and my own, superfluously; nothing being more easy than to make or relate cases, on almost any medical subject. The RESULT of my observations on the effects of the nitric acid, being all you express a desire to have, I therefore, decidedly (as far as my

OWN

own practice has enabled me to conclude) am obliged to observe, that in recent, in advanced, and in the latest states and stages of that disease, I have given it fairly and fully to its greatest safe extent; and I wish I could say to the benefit of those who have gone through such continued trials, but cannot urge much in favour of them.

Sir Joseph Banks did me the honor, very early after their arrival, to send me the papers from Dr. Anderson, of Madras, published in the Bombay Gazette, with others on this subject from Dr. Currie, of Liverpool, and Professor Hope, of Edinburgh, (men of the greatest respectability); and I have reason to believe I was among the first who began giving the nitric acid in this metropolis. Many gentlemen, I presume, have begun to try it since I have done with it, *being myself long convinced of* ITS INEFFICACY.

If I were to mention one state, wherein I think it has seemed to have been more permanently, *though not eventually*, efficacious, than in any other, it would be in venereal affections of the BONES: But, even on that, I have not perfectly made up my mind. In some other stages it palliates; although
it

it is not to be depended upon, in my opinion, which, by your desire, I have given ingenuously, as the result of my own *practical knowledge*.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Very much your's,

J. HEAVISIDE.

George-Street, Hanover-Square,

3rd. of Nov. 1798.

II. *Another Communication from Dr. Mitchell.*

Chatham Barracks,

Nov. 20, 1798.

SIR,

I have but little to add in addition to what I formerly imparted, respecting my knowledge of the effects of the nitrous acid in the cure of the venereal disease. It has only been given in *four cases* of syphilis with SECONDARY SYMPTOMS; in all of which it failed in effecting cures: In two of them, the disease for some time remained stationary, although the acid was pushed as far as the stomach could bear it; mercury was then conjoined with evident benefit: In the other two cases, it disagreed so much with the stomach, that I was obliged to give it up.

Having

Having witnessed several instances of a recurrence of the disease, after the symptoms had disappeared ; and having likewise found it to fail in others, where the cure was committed to it alone ; *I have of late ceased to depend upon the acid for the cure of the disease* IN ANY STAGE : But I frequently conjoin it with mercury, especially where the constitution is debilitated ; and from experience I know the conjunction to be useful. A smaller quantity of mercury seems to effect a cure, and the appetite and general health of the patient appear to suffer less, than when mercury *alone* is used.

I have no experience whatever of the other new remedies lately recommended for the cure of the lues venerea.

I remain,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

A. MITCHELL.

To Mr. Blair,
Great Russel-Street.

III. *A Letter from Mr. Leigh Thomas, Surgeon.*

To MR. BLAIR.

DEAR SIR,

I do not any longer consider the paper, which I had the honor to read at the *Lyceum Medicum Londinense*, as my property; but the Committee consents that you may make what extracts from it you think will illustrate the objects of your enquiry.

I remain, &c. &c.

LEIGH THOMAS.

Leicester Square,
Jan. 1st, 1799.

“ How far the power of nitrous acid is to be depended on in syphilitic affections, I think will very soon become obvious to the medical world: And, in my opinion, we cannot much longer be deluded with the hope of mercury being superseded by its use. I can readily allow that the successful trials, recorded by men of undoubted veracity and character, are numerous; that their opportunities for conducting these experiments are confessedly great; and

and that their design in giving the details which have been published, is the promotion of medical science. But, when we consider, on the other hand, how many of these successful cases might have ended well, without any antivenereal remedy being employed, and the possibility of secondary symptoms yet occurring in others, we shall probably find the real number of *decisive cures* to be comparatively small. Again, it is certain that the instances of failures already recorded, by persons of skill and celebrity in their profession, are very considerable; the number of them is likewise daily accumulating; and, if my own testimony will tend to confirm these accounts, I can safely aver that in NOT ONE CASE of confirmed lues have I ever observed it *singly* to be of the least benefit. I think no deduction ought to be drawn in favour of the new remedy, merely from its use in chancres and buboes; as these symptoms will often disappear without the aid of medicines of any kind, and still more frequently without mercury.

Although we find the supposed antivenereal effects of nitrous acid to be entirely unfounded, we ought not therefore to throw aside a medicine which may be

highly useful in other respects; and especially in checking the ravages which mercury occasionally makes in the constitution. The plan of administering it in conjunction with mercury, has been adopted with the most beneficial effects: It is also of great use in typhus fever, in ill-conditioned ulcerated surfaces, in herpetic eruptions, and in fistulous sores. But, the subject of my present consideration forbids my enlarging on these particulars. I have not observed that less mercury is required to remove the syphilis, when nitrous acid has been conjoined, than in the common practice; nor do I think that patients are secured from a relapse more certainly, nor in a shorter time, than by the ordinary treatment: Nevertheless, the advantages attending the conjunction of those two remedies in the Lues Venerea, are generally sufficient to authorise that plan of cure.

To illustrate my position, I shall relate two cases, from a number of others, which would occasion a needless repetition to be introduced here: But I will first notice my usual mode of exhibiting the acid, and the common effects it has upon the constitution. The great point to be attended to in
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the exhibition of this medicine, is to render it as agreeable to the stomach as possible. Given merely in water it frequently nauseates, and very soon affects the bowels: To avoid this, I direct a dram of the acid to be diluted with a pint or two of water; this is afterwards sweetened with sugar, and a little fresh lemon peel may be infused in it, which gives the whole very much the taste of imperial water— If this should at all ruffle the bowels, a small quantity of brandy may be added, which I have universally found to answer. When given in this way, my patients have always considered it as a pleasant beverage, and were generally willing to drink double the quantity prescribed. It sometimes happens that the teeth are much effected by the acid: this may be avoided by the patient using a glass tube, or a quill, through which the liquid can be conveyed to the pharynx without coming in contact with them. The obvious effects the acid produced upon the constitution, were almost always an increased secretion of urine, the action of the vascular system much augmented, (which may be discovered not so much by a quick hard pulse, as by a firm stroke, presenting to the finger a broad basis,) increased appetite, with frequent desire for food. When given in large doses

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I have observed the pulse to become quick and hard, the tongue furred; nausea, with sense of burning in the stomach, and constipation of the bowels; intense head ach, and vertigo; in one case the vessels of the tunica conjunctiva of the eyes were distended with blood to an alarming degree, an hæmorrhage from the nose came on, which I believe averted fatal consequences. With regard to the blood appearing sizy; although I have had no opportunity of confirming the supposition, I think it likely to occur. I never saw it produce a genuine ptyalism; that is, an increased action of the salivary glands themselves, arising from the constitutional effects of the remedy: And the spitting which has been noticed by some authors, I conceive to arise merely from the local action of the acid upon the cheeks and gums; as this symptom disappears, when a glass tube is made use of.

I shall now proceed to relate the cases I before alluded to. A gentleman, aged thirty, of a sedentary disposition, though of a robust habit and florid countenance, contracted a venereal infection two years ago; which shewed itself by a chancre on the prepuce, and a bubo in
each

each groin; he underwent a regular course of mercury, by direction of a surgeon in the country: The chancre soon healed, but the buboes went on to suppuration. The mercury was persisted in nine or ten weeks; the sores towards the end of that time became evidently worse, not only by the ulceration extending, but sinusses were formed in every direction. In the spring, 1797, he came to town and consulted Mr. Cruikshank, who considered his present situation as probably resulting from the effects of the mercury, and ordered him a full generous diet, with sea-bathing, and the sarsaparilla in substance, from six to ten drams daily. After having spent three months at Ramsgate, and strictly adhering to the rules laid down, he returned to town, and accidentally became my patient: His general health at this time appeared tolerably good, his appetite had never failed, nor was his sleep disturbed. Upon examining the groins I found them perfect quagmires, the external sores were not very extensive, but fistulous openings, to the number of twenty or thirty, appeared in every direction, which gave vent to a large quantity of foetid thin matter; the integuments surrounding the sores had a livid cast, similar to what is observed in scrophula. However, this

this idea of the case was not confirmed, either by the general habit of the patient, or from any account I could learn of his family : Upon the whole I was inclined to consider the disease as local, and treated it accordingly ; yet, I much doubted the propriety of an attempt to lay open the different sinusses. At this time I had just heard of the powers of nitrous acid in venereal cases; and it occurred to me that this might be a favourable one, for a trial of that remedy, especially as mercury had not only failed, but likewise apparently increased the disorder. Of the acid, therefore, I directed him to take one dram daily, increasing the quantity to two or three drams ; the parts to be fomented with a decoction of cicuta twice a day, and the diluted citrine ointment applied between the intervals of fomenting. A month after, I saw him again, when I had every reason to think him better : We agreed to persevere in the same plan for a month longer, in which time he increased the acid to three drams daily. After this period, I began to suspect that no advantage could accrue from a further use of the acid. There was, at that juncture, an ulceration of the fauces : I now had no hesitation in recommending mercury. To this he assented : Half a dram of the strong ointment was directed

directed to be rubbed in the thighs every evening, and the acid laid aside. After a fortnight, the throat appeared evidently better, but his general health seemed to decline rapidly; night sweats, tremors, and loss of appetite came on: still I was loth to lay aside the mercury, especially as I had lately discovered an appearance on the forehead, every way similar to *corona veneris*. During the course of the acid, the patient thought himself in better health and spirits than usual, although without any evident amendment of his complaints; he enquired if there was any objection to his taking the acid whilst rubbing in, as he had conceived a notion that his health would be benefited by it. I hesitated some time before I could answer that question, never having heard of a case in which these remedies were called upon to act in concert. Upon mature consideration, I saw no reason, even if they did not act conjointly upon the disease, why they should interfere in the operation of each other. Accordingly this plan was adopted, and in a short time we had every reason to be satisfied with the result; the eruptions on the forehead, with the sore throat, disappeared in a fortnight, and the tremors, night sweats, &c. gradually went off; the discharge from

the sores became of a better consistence, and the edges of the fistulous orifice looked white, as if disposed to heal; the livid appearance of the surrounding skin, which was so strongly marked in the beginning, gradually and completely disappeared. In short, not to tire society by a tedious account of the progress of the cure, I shall only say, that the patient found himself perfectly well at the end of ten weeks, from the commencement of the joint remedies; the sores were dressed with dry lint only, nor had I occasion to lay open a single sinus.

Within a few months ago, I met with a similar case in a young woman, except, that the secondary symptoms were farther advanced; she had an extensive ulceration on the forehead, with a well marked venereal node on the shin of each leg. A course of mercury had been administered, under the direction of a very eminent surgeon, who considered her cured, although a small ulcer at the same time existed on the forehead; this never healed, and after the nodes appeared, she became my patient. As the sores on the forehead were spreading, and the nodes enlarging, I had no hesitation in putting her on a mercurial course: the first week brought
on

on a mitigation of the night pains. On the second week, however, they seemed aggravated, and her general health suffered in consequence of night sweats, and loss of appetite. Under these circumstances I employed the acid, at the same time directing the mercurial frictions to be continued. At the end of two months every bad symptom was gone, and she is at this time in perfect health.—The utility of the acid in these cases is, I believe, sufficiently obvious; but the *modus operandi* is a point which will admit of considerable dispute.”

Here ends that part of Mr. Thomas's paper, which relates more immediately to my subject. In addition to the above *written* communications, most of which are decidedly unfavourable to the new antisyphilitic remedies, I have received *oral* accounts of unsuccessful trials, from various other medical gentlemen; among whom are several, whose names stand high on the list of public teachers in London: and, certainly it merits consideration, whether so many men of established character and practice, would have abandoned the new remedies (as they have done) upon slight or insufficient grounds.

CHAPTER II.

An Abstract of the Evidence lately published by Dr. ROLLO, in the second Edition of his Volume upon the Diabetes Mellitus, Part II. Chap. II. Page 539, &c. with a Letter from Mr. BLAIR to the Author, and another to Dr. BEDDOES:

I Have formerly given an account of thirty-two cases of primary venereal affections, and two of secondary symptoms, treated in the Royal Artillery Hospital, at Woolwich. A letter from Dr. Rollo (see page 65) announces that upwards of seventy additional patients have been cured by the new remedies. Since that letter was printed, this physician has favoured the world with an ample detail of the cases there alluded to, and has likewise added the result of many other trials; which, he thinks, "COMPLETELY ESTABLISHES
" THEIR EFFICACY IN THE SECONDARY, AS WELL
" AS THE PRIMARY STATES OF THE DISEASE." And he recommends those practitioners who would
" obtain the same success," to conduct their experiments

periments "as nearly as possible in the same manner:" We do this, says he "the more earnestly, as we have observed with regret, in the alledged failures of others, that our management has not been strictly pursued." Toward the end of the volume, a similar remark is made by his ingenious colleague Mr. Cruickshank. "We do not presume to account for the numerous failures which have been recorded; but, suspect that they are to be ascribed, either to some irregularity or impropriety in the administration of the remedies, or to a want of perseverance and steadiness in the practitioner or patient." Upon the whole, these gentlemen "conclude with observing, that one of the two following positions *must* be admitted—EITHER THESE REMEDIES CURE THE LUES VENEREA; OR IN 99 CASES OUT OF 100, THE DISEASE CURES ITSELF. Our opponents may take which side they choose; for on either supposition, mercury must be unnecessary." This triumphant language has been re-echoed by an anonymous writer, who tells us, "It will not be easy for the opposers of the new remedies to get over the mass of evidence brought forward in this work in its favour,"

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The evidence here produced, consists of seventy-eight cases described at full length; seventy-seven more, briefly enumerated in a table; and thirty-four, which were under cure, and going on well, November the 1st, 1798. Of the seventy-eight which are detailed, *twelve* were secondary cases; of the seventy-seven mentioned in the table, only *one* was a confirmed syphilis; and of the thirty-four under cure, *two* are of secondary symptoms: So that, among ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY NINE patients, there were in all but FIFTEEN with a general infection. In this total number, are comprehended thirty-two of those which have been before published: and, as many of the others are merely hinted at, in a very superficial manner, I shall here give an analysis of the *seventy-eight only*, which are detailed in the present edition.

Twenty-eight patients were treated with the nitrous acid alone; three, with oxygenated muriate of manganese; twenty-seven, with oxygenated muriate of potash; five, with the last mentioned remedy and nitrous acid together; and fifteen, by the new remedies combined with mercury. Their symptoms, in general, were recent chancres and
buboes;

buboes; except the twelve who laboured under secondary affections. The average space of time, during which they were under this plan of treatment, was about nine weeks; but several cases were uncommonly tedious. Many of the patients had been cured a sufficient time to prevent any apprehensions of a relapse; although some of the most interesting had not been discharged above two or three months, which is not always long enough to preclude the re-appearance of venereal symptoms.

The regimen and general mode of conducting the patients, appear to have been nearly the same as formerly; but if there has been any difference of moment, it is chiefly in regard to the variety of external and internal means of cure, which were employed as adjuncts to the new remedies: For example, they made use of cataplasms, and ointments; solutions of camphor, zinc, and nitrated mercury; carbonic acid, and hydrogenous gasses; opium, hemlock, peruvian bark, &c. &c. How far these auxiliaries ought to have been avoided, in an attempt to ascertain the

the powers of a new medicine, will be determined by impartial observers.

“ With a view to satisfy themselves of the
“ antisyphilitic property of the nitrous acid,” and
other analogous substances, these gentlemen confined their early experiments “ to cases of pri-
“ mary affections; these being always less equi-
“ vocal and doubtful; but for some time past,
“ no distinction has been made, and the secondary
“ as well as primary symptoms have been *all*
“ treated by the same plan.” Subsequent complaints “ are acknowledged to have appeared in
“ some of these patients,” after they had been seemingly cured; “ but were afterwards com-
“ pletely removed by persevering in the same
“ mode of treatment: Could mercury have done
“ more? And, how many cases of secondary
“ disease might 155 of the above description,
“ treated in the usual way, have afforded? See
“ Mr. BLAIR’s Treatise on this subject; where
“ it appears, that of 37 secondary cases related
“ by him, 17 certainly had followed a mercurial
“ course, and probably there were more.” Thus write Mr. Cruickshank and Dr. Wittman.

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“ Upon the whole,” they say farther, “ we are
“ confident that fewer troublesome buboes have
“ been met with, than usually occur under the
“ mercurial treatment, and none of them have
“ spread and ulcerated in the dreadful manner
“ which too often happens under that remedy.
“ In a few instances glandular swellings have made
“ their appearance ; but these have been rare,
“ and probably were not altogether owing to the
“ medicines.” From the trials yet made, Dr.
Wittman “ cannot say he has seen much benefit”
from the combination of mercury with the new
medicines : Indeed he thinks “ that venereal sores,
“ either from chancres, or from buboes, have
“ healed *more readily*, treated with the new re-
“ medies *alone*, than when mercury was employed.”
Mr. Cruickshank concurs in this opinion ; “ for
“ although a few of the cures were accomplished
“ in a very short time, the greater part proved
“ rather tedious.”

When the oxygenated muriate of potash produces little or no effect upon the disease or constitution, and occasions an heat in the urine, which is voided in large quantities, this remedy

has probably passed off without being decomposed :
In those cases, " each dose should be followed
" by 10 or 15 drops of some acid, which seldom
" or never fails of having the desired effect."
Another circumstance merits attention; which is,
" an eruption on the skin, of a dull red colour,
" not very unlike venereal blotches: They
" may, however, be distinguished from these, by
" the floridness of the colour, the itching with
" which they are accompanied, and their disappear-
" ing without throwing off scales, or leaving any
" copper coloured marks. These spots never
" made their appearance, but when the patients
" were under the full action of the medicine,"
(oxygenated muriate of potash) " and generally
" went off in two or three weeks, under a con-
" tinuance of the same treatment."

" A third observation respecting these remedies,
" is that they have always acted with the greatest
" certainty and quickness, where the system has
" been reduced." In every instance where blood-
letting has been previously employed, Mr. C.
informs us that " the practice has been attended
" with manifest advantage." He does not con-
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sider the oxygenated muriate of manganese as any way superior to the other medicines; and, of all those which he has employed, he still gives the preference to the oxygenated muriate of potash: "For, there have been many cases where it has succeeded, much better than the nitric acid."

Finally, it is remarked, that in the failures which have been recorded by other practitioners, "the remedies were too seldom varied; so that, when one did not answer immediately, it was dropped, and mercury had recourse to: Now, we are confident that much of our uniform success has been owing to the method which was very early adopted, of changing the preparation, whenever it seemed to produce no further effect on the disease or constitution."

I have here given a fair and undisguised recital of the *leading* observations which accompany these cases: It only remains to point out some of the cases which merit a particular examination. They may be properly arranged under the two classes of PRIMARY, and of SECONDARY venereal symptoms. Those of the former kind, which ought to be con-

sidered

sidered in all their circumstances, are the 1st, the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 30th, 33rd, 34th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 53rd, 57th, 60th, 61st, 67th, and a few more of a similar description. The secondary cases, being of greater value than the others, on account of their refractory nature, should be ALL attentively perused; viz. the 6th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 32nd, 39th, 52nd, 56th, 59th, 62nd, and 63rd.

Hereafter, I shall take the liberty of offering a full analysis of the *secondary cases*, together with some remarks upon the practice of the Woolwich Surgeons: The bold inferences they have here drawn, in my humble opinion, are not justified by the facts brought forward; and, as "IT IS A
" GREAT PUBLIC CAUSE," wherein " TRUTH IS
" WANTED RATHER THAN COMPLAISANCE," I hope these gentlemen will permit me to speak my mind with freedom. To shew, however, that I wish this discussion to be conducted in a civil and amicable manner, I subjoin the entire copy of a letter which I sent to Dr. ROLLO, on receiving his volume upon the Diabetes Mellitus.

A Letter from Mr. BLAIR to Dr. ROLLO.

DEAR SIR,

I embrace the earliest opportunity of returning you my best thanks for the favour of your work on the DIABETES, &c. which I received yesterday. I have, as yet, only had time to glance at some parts of the book; but shall peruse it with attention, and, I am persuaded, with great benefit. The interesting facts which you made public in the first edition, must cause medical men to enquire with eagerness after the result of your farther observations and experience.

The letter you formerly honoured me with, in which mention was made of the numerous trials and invariable success of your colleagues, with the new antivenereal remedies, has been printed above four months. I was concerned to find myself obliged to withhold that information from the public thus long, on account of the tardiness of some practitioners, whose communications I intended to have published at the same time with yours. As you perhaps may be gratified to know what intelligence

telligence I have hitherto received, and how far the observations of other gentlemen correspond with your own, I have herewith sent you the sheets which are printed off, and will trouble you with the remainder as soon as the collection is completed.

I assure you, Sir, it is with no small regret that I perceive so wide a difference in the events of our experiments with the nitrous acid, &c. And I am the more concerned at observing, that you attribute my ill success to *mismanagement*. Mr. Cruickshank also agrees with you, that “the numerous failures which have been recorded, are to be ascribed either to some irregularity or impropriety in the administration of the remedies, or to a want of perseverance and steadiness in the practitioner or patient.” It would be entering into a wide field, were I to state what causes I assign for our extreme diversity of opinion, and for the various results which have occurred in our several trials: I presume, however, to suggest, that I do not think myself driven to the alternative of accepting either of your *final propositions*. My views will be explained in due time;

time; and I trust they will be read with candour, if not with approbation.

In the former edition of your valuable work, you hinted that the new remedies would probably turn out beneficial in advanced stages of the Lues Venerea: This was then said by way of anticipation: You now come forward with your proofs, and suppose you have "COMPLETELY ESTABLISHED THEIR EFFICACY IN THE SECONDARY STATES OF THE DISEASE." I heartily wish I could join issue with you in this respect: But, as many of the cases already published, and some of those which I have the pleasure to send you, unavoidably impel me to an opposite persuasion; we must ultimately refer the grounds of our decision to the judgment of an impartial world, from whence there will be no appeal.

My mind is entirely open to the force of evidence; and I can truly say, that conviction, arising from LUMINOUS FACTS, is what I desire as the reward of my investigations. Your cases are submitted to the inspection of the public; mine will soon be edited; and I am contented to await the con-

conclusions which our medical brethren will draw from them. “Nos, qui sequimur probabilia, nec
“ultra id quod veri simile occurrerit progredi
“possumus; et refellere sine pertinacia, & re-
“felli sine iracundia, parati sumus.” May we both adopt the words and sentiments of Cicero, on the present occasion: For, in spite of all difficulties, mighty is the TRUTH, and it will finally prevail.

I remain, dear Sir,

As sincerely as ever,

Great Russel-Street,

Yours, &c.

Nov. 15, 1798.

W. BLAIR.

P. S. Please to present my respectful compliments to your fellow labourers in the profession, at Woolwich; and especially to Dr. Wittman, who was very obliging to me during the visits I had the honour to make at your Hospital.

The same motive which has induced me to publish the above address to Dr. Rollo, disposes me likewise to add the following conciliatory letter to Dr. Beddoes; I am besides compelled to do so, by an allusion which has been made to it in Dr. B's last publication upon the nitrous acid.

A Letter from Mr. BLAIR to Dr. BEDDOES.

SIR,

Although I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with *you*, I have with several of your literary friends in London; from whom I learn that you are just ready to publish another fasciculus of cases, respecting the effects of the nitrous acid in syphilis, with a CRITIQUE *upon the first part of my essay on the same subject.*

As to the strictures which you may please to make concerning me, (should you indeed condescend to notice what I have done,) I cannot but suppose that they will be such as denote the author to be a gentleman, a scholar, and a liberal physician. If your remarks shall throw a new light on the important topic we are treating, my earnestness to discover the TRUTH will prevent any regret on my part, for being detected in an error.

I know you would wish the question to be decided by fair experiments, not by high authorities;

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by palpable evidence, not by premature conjectures. Hypothetical notions ought to be entirely excluded in a practical controversy, like the present; and you will agree, SIR, with me, that bold assertions, unsupported by *legitimate facts*, are likely to be full as pernicious as chimerical hypotheses.

Having the firmest persuasion of your zeal for the good of the public, and being convinced that if we differ in sentiment it is because we have different facts to ground our judgments upon, I lately used the freedom (by the hands of Mr. Brown) to transmit you those additional sheets which I had printed, since my other observations were edited. You will there see the result of *above two hundred more trials*, by various and unconnected practitioners.

About four months ago, I had likewise the honour to send you a copy of the former part of my essay on the new antivenereal remedies; but, as you have not yet acknowledged the receipt of it, perhaps it has miscarried. If, either in that pamphlet, or the one which I now have in the press,
there

there should appear to be any thing personal, disrespectful, uncandid, or otherwise improper, in regard to yourself or your correspondents, I hope I shall at all times be ready to offer a suitable apology, as becomes a real lover of decorum.

I am uncertain at what precise time my second collection will be completed;* as several gentlemen have disappointed me, by delaying to forward their cases: and, lest you should be waiting for me, (as I am told you are) I have thought it right to apprise you of this temporary interruption to my original plan, in hopes that you will publish the sooner. For, medical men have been long expecting your reports.

With the best wishes for your success, in the many laudable exertions you are making for the advancement of practical knowledge,

I remain,

Sir,

&c. &c.

Great Russel-Street,

Bloomsbury,

Nov. 10, 1798.

W. BLAIR.

C H A P. III.

A full and impartial Analysis of "*New Reports concerning Nitrous Acid in the Venereal Disease;*" or, "*A Collection of Testimonies respecting the Treatment of the Venereal Disease by Nitrous Acid:*" published by THOMAS BEDDOES, M. D.
LONDON, Johnson, 1799. 8vo. 277 pages.

THE following communications are the fruit of a plan delineated by Dr. BEDDOES, in order "to direct the mental eye of his readers towards those brilliant and spreading prospects which medical investigation, guided by the light of philosophy, has recently discovered," as well as "to assist in rescuing thousands of sufferers from the pangs of disease and the nets of imposture."

The advertisement prefixed to this volume acquaints us, that the formation of the present collection has proved a tedious and inconvenient task; and that nothing but the immense importance of the enquiry could have prevented the editor from destroying the sheets which came first from the press,
and

and returning the paper he had received. As I have myself partaken of similar labours and inconveniencies, from the same motives as Dr. Beddoes, I have learnt how to appreciate his laudable exertions; and do most chearfully acknowledge that much praise is due to him for the mass of evidence he has here presented to the public: I conceive also, that grace will readily be granted him, for the long delay which readers and writers have experienced; especially, because this delay was occasioned chiefly by his waiting for "*about a hundred cases, treated according to Mr. Scott's method, in the Lock Hospital at Dublin,*" wherein the acid "*had completely failed.*" It is much to be regretted, however, that those cases did not, at last, come to hand; for Dr. B. thinks, "*the main question would undoubtedly have then appeared in a very different light.*"

This publication, says the editor, "must fix disgrace somewhere. There was a time when I felt alarm for myself and for those who had adopted similar conclusions, on account of certain menacing sounds that proceeded from the METROPOLIS: But, my fears have nearly subsided

“ sided.—That the nitrous acid and its kindred
“ will occupy a much more important station in the
“ *materia medica antisyphilitica*, than the author
“ of the Essay” (i. e. Mr. Blair) “ seems ready to
“ assign them, is my present firm persuasion.”

After having reprinted his own circular address, Dr. Beddoes proceeds to give a detail of the “ New Reports;” and opens with a copy of five letters from Mr. HELENUS SCOTT, of Bombay, whom the medical world has often erroneously denominated *William Scott*. On the 5th of August, 1797, that Surgeon enclosed the three last letters, which he had written upon the effects o. the acid, in a packet for Dr. Beddoes; and authorised him to print them, for the information of practitioners in Europe: He suggests, that he had not found the *oxygen air*, when applied to the internal surface of the intestinal canal, to answer the same purpose as nitric acid; and thinks it probable that the pure air requires some base to adhere to, before it can enter the general system.

Dr. Beddoes subjoins the following note to Mr. Scott's second epistle.—“ In a letter to
“ Dr.

“ Dr. Al. Johnson, of Charlotte-street, St. Mary-
“ le-bone, Mr. Scott says, ‘ I have such extensive
“ experience of the effects of nitrous acid (in
“ hepatic and venereal cases) *that I cannot be mis-*
“ *taken.* It is certainly more efficacious than mer-
“ cury in many cases, and far less hurtful.”—
At page 16, the editor gratifies us with some
farther intelligence from Bombay, dated October
20, 1797; containing Mr. Scott’s retraction of
what he had before advanced in favour of the
NITRIC BATHING. “ I am now of opinion,”
(says Mr. S.) “ that I have probably attributed
“ too powerful effects against syphilis to the *nitric*
“ *bathing.* I did not follow, in this last letter,
“ the cautious conduct that I did in the rest, by
“ waiting for a sufficient experience on the subject.
“ The matter deserves farther attention;
“ but till this can be given, I beg of you, if in your
“ power, to prevent the publication of the fourth
“ letter, which speaks so confidently of the effects
“ of the nitric bath. The good effects of
“ the acid, especially in syphilis, when taken in-
“ ternally, I see daily confirmed; *and I at last*
“ *believe, that NO CASE CAN RESIST IT, when*
“ *properly administered for a sufficient time.*”

Pages 17—25, contain a communication from Dr. TROTTER, dated Spithead, December 4, 1797. He forwards to Dr. Beddoes three cases detailed by Dr. BROWNE, *Surgeon of the Royal Sovereign, flagship of Vice Admiral Sir A. Gardner, Bart.*—The first of these patients, TYSON WILSON, seaman, about thirty years of age, had contracted a venereal complaint, four years before; and was apparently cured, by undergoing a regular course of mercury: But, from that time, he suffered pains which led Dr. Browne to conjecture that he had “a lurking virus.” Mercury was therefore frequently administered, so as to excite a ptyalism, and was continued for some time. The last course of this kind, had been tried nearly four weeks, without advantage; so that, when he began to take the acid, he had large nodes on each of his tibiæ, which were exquisitely sensible to the slightest touch; also a large glandular swelling under his chin, ulcerated and discharging a thin, acrid, greenish, foetid matter; nodes beginning on his arms; swellings in the joints of his fingers; copper-coloured dry crusty scabs over his head; constant fever, high coloured urine; no appetite; nocturnal pains, so severe that two grains of opium seldom procured him an hour's

hour's rest; hectic sweats, and very great debility. He began by taking seventy drops of nitrous acid daily, in a quart of water. It was encreased every day twenty drops, till he took two hundred and twenty, which were as many as he could bear. After the first quantity had been drank, the man said "he had been in heaven all night, that he "had six hours sleep, and felt much stouter." About the sixth day, he could bear his nodes to be handled freely; and the cure went on so rapidly, that the abscess healed, the nodes disappeared, and in twenty-eight days (May 14th) he returned to his duty, stronger and healthier than he had been for four years before. Since this period to the date of Dr. Browne's letter, October 21, 1797, he had enjoyed uninterrupted good health, notwithstanding his having been almost constantly at sea for the last six months.

CASE II. *Joseph Austin* had long laboured under the baneful effects of the venereal virus. He had been twice salivated for the disease, and thought himself well. When he began the acid, his left testicle was very much enlarged, adhered to the scrotum, was ulcerated, and discharging a thin foetid

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matter; with large, hard, dry scabs, over his legs, thighs, and elbow joints; a slight paralytic affection of the left arm and eyelid; an incontinence of urine; and, on catching the slightest cold, great pains in his bones, particularly of the head. This man took the acid at the same time, and with equal good effect, as WILSON. After a week, the scabs began to peel off, some of the largest of them discharged good conditioned pus, and were healed readily. The ulcer on the scrotum was well in a month, and the testicle was somewhat reduced in size, as well as free from pain. He returned to duty on the 1st of June: But, about three weeks after, one of the sores broke out afresh; for which he took eight bottles of the acid mixture: It healed, and he has since enjoyed good health.

CASE III. *John Evans* was put under the same treatment, for venereal ulcers in his throat; and eruptions over his breast, shoulders, neck, face, and head, of very long standing. He recovered, in due time, to a state of perfect health and strength.—In these cases, says Dr. Browne, all other medicines were laid aside; so that every beneficial effect was solely derived from the acid.

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The physician to the fleet, Dr. TROTTER, concludes with expressing his satisfaction at the efforts which are making to appreciate the new remedies; and thanks Dr. Beddoes for extending the discovery "that must immortalize Mr. Scott." He likewise mentions that he can reckon six or seven cures by the acid, and most of them of long standing: Mercury had been used, without effect, in some; but in others the acid was the first medicine exhibited. "We must be very much on our guard," (continues he) "about the preparation of this article: "There will be a thousand mouths open to expose "its failure in Lues Venerea, when the charge ought "to lay against some other quarter; and it is "devoutly to be wished that government should "order a quantity to be prepared under the directions of some able and expert Chymist, for "the use of the Army and Navy."

He remarks that two patients, who had been three weeks under a course of the acid, were sent to *Haslar Hospital*, where the symptoms completely yielded; such as large scabs over the body, pain of the forehead and nose, with purulent discharge from the *membrana schneideriana*, violent nocturnal

turnal pains, &c. of many months standing. The disease, however, returned; and they were put under a course of mercury: But Dr. Trotter thinks, "that ten days more on the use of the acid, would have secured these men from any future attack." Another case, of a female patient, having nodes on her legs and metacarpal bones, was greatly benefited, in ten days: She was still under cure, and the Dr. prognosticated favourably of the issue.

It is worthy of observation, that in one of Dr. Browne's cases, he was obliged to desist from the nitrous acid, on account of a severe scurvy appearing; and that, after he had relieved the patient of this disorder, by the use of citric acid, his venereal symptoms were cured by again having recourse to the acidum nitrosum: From hence, Dr. Trotter infers that there is some analogy between the action of mercury and the nitrous gas.

P. 26—30. Three cases, with remarks, are detailed by A. CARRICK, of Clifton; to which is prefixed, a note, dated December 17, 1797. The FIRST patient had been treated with mercury

six or eight different times, in the course of three years, during which period he laboured under the Lues Venerea. In July, 1797, when he began the acid, he had left off mercury about two months: His symptoms then were callous ulcerations in the throat, pain and rigidity of his limbs, with a node on the left shin, as large as a walnut, and insupportably painful upon the slightest touch. He took six drams of the acid during the first eight days, and was greatly better; insomuch, that his node and ulcers were *entirely* gone. The acid was continued three weeks longer, twenty-four drams having been taken in all; and the patient has been perfectly free from complaint ever since.

CASE II. A Gentleman, affected with callous ulcers in his throat, pain in his limbs, and general debility, supposed to have arisen from a chancre and bubo, which he had nine months before, and for which he had taken large quantities of mercury, was apparently cured in eight days: The acid was continued a month longer, in the quantity of a dram daily; and he has remained in health since that time, which is four months ago.

CASE III. About the same time, the acid was given to a gentleman, who had frequently taken mercury, in very large quantities, within the last three years. No outward venereal symptom was then present; but he was desirous of using medicines, and was persuaded that a latent virus existed in his constitution. In about a month, the languor, debility, loss of appetite, and dejection of spirits, with which he had been troubled, were entirely disappeared, and his health was more perfect than it had been during the three preceding years. Beside these three instances, this practitioner had administered the acid in two others; but, without success. They were recent cases; and the medicine, he thinks, was not fairly tried.—Upon the whole, Dr. Carrick makes the following reflections.

“ 1st. As those only were cured in which mercury had been previously used, they afford no positive proof of the antisymphilitic power of nitrous acid; although it is rendered highly probable, by the time that had elapsed between the exhibition of the mercury and the acid, in Cases 1st, and 2nd.

“ 2nd.

“ 2nd. It is rendered highly probable, that
“ where the complaint is of long standing, and
“ where much mercury has been used, the acid
“ produces a cure more speedily than mercury
“ alone, and probably would effect a cure, where
“ mercury, unassisted, could not.

“ 3rd. In such cases, where some of the mercury
“ previously taken, may be still supposed to re-
“ main in the body, it remains uncertain whether
“ the cure is effected by the direct antisyphilitic
“ powers of the acid; or by its tonic powers,
“ rendering the solids more susceptible of the
“ action of the mercury; or by the combined
“ powers of two antidotes, acting on the disease at
“ the same time; or by some chemical combina-
“ tion, which may *possibly* take place between
“ them in the body.

“ 4th. Judging from my own limited experi-
“ ence, the acid appears better adapted to cases
“ of long standing, than primary affections; and
“ promises to be of infinite service where the
“ long continued exhibition of mercury has both
“ debilitated the constitution, and impaired its
“ powers

“ powers over the virus; and where a cure, as
“ sometimes happens, was by mercury alone im-
“ practicable.

“ 5th. It does not appear that the *nitric* is in
“ any respect preferable to the *nitrous* acid, in the
“ cure of this disorder.”

P. 30—33. Dr. Beddoes produces extracts from Chap. X. of the second volume of a French work lately published at PARIS. In the former part of my Essay, I have given a translation of this chapter of *Dr. Swediaur's* Treatise, so far as appeared necessary to illustrate the present investigation. Dr. B. also notices a false assertion of *Monsieur Alyon*, in regard to the oxydation of mercury; for mercury, says the Dr. “is not the most easily oxydated, nor
“ does it absorb most oxygen.”

Pages 33 and 34, contain a letter from S. P. BRYER, of *Weymouth*, relating the successful event of a case of venereal ulcers and blotches, with a carious bone; after bark, opium, cicuta, and mercury, in all its forms, had been employed to no good purpose. The acid had also been used with
ad-

advantage on another man who could not bear mercury; and also in a bad foul ulcer on the leg, not venereal.

Pages 35—37, are occupied by a copy of my CIRCULAR LETTER, (which I *first* printed on the 16th of October, 1797) with a few critical remarks upon it by Dr. Beddoes. This physician alledges, in opposition to what I had advanced, that “few, “if any, persons have *generally* affirmed the substances in question to be *certain and speedy remedies against the Lues Venerea*.”—I had said that the hopes of experimenters were sanguine: But, the Doctor is decidedly of opinion, on the contrary, that “the principal persons engaged in “this enquiry were either *not sanguine, or remarkably sceptical*.”—He thinks my statement, in this respect, “may afford an instructive lesson to “MAXIM-MONGERS;” and he concludes his critique with the following suggestion: “The “reporters, no doubt, will thank him” (i. e. the author of the circular letter) “to shew that the “cases adduced here, and elsewhere, are *illegitimate*: They will put up with the shame, for “the sake of the instruction.”

In reply to Dr. Beddoes, I observe, that it will be a sufficient vindication of what I had advanced in my circular address, to refer to the extracts I have given in the former part of this publication: It will there be seen who was sanguine, and who sceptical. Among the former, I must beg leave to include the wary critic *himself*; as he "seems" to denominate the nitric acid "A NEW SPECIFIC FOR VENEREAL AFFECTIONS, SUCH AS WE POSSESSED BEFORE IN MERCURY." I leave it for him to determine in what sense mercury has been *generally* regarded as a *specific*: It is enough for the Dr. to suggest, that it is *such* a specific as mercury. And, with respect to the *legitimacy* of the proofs brought forward to establish the anti-venereal powers of the new remedies, I shall elsewhere consider this matter at large.—He mistakes my design entirely, in supposing that any thing contained in the letter he is pleased to transcribe, was meant as a "reproach" on the gentlemen concerned in this investigation. I hate literary disputes as much as any man; and shall be careful not to employ personal invective, or unhandsome expressions, even against intemperate adversaries. My sole aim is to balance the evidence, not to combat the witnesses.

P. 37—41. A letter from Dr. GEACH, bearing date November the 4th, 1797, mentions the efficacy of the nitrous acid in two instances of venereal eruptions, and in several cases of gonorrhœa. This respectable physician announces that Mr. Hammick junior is about to bring forward an account of *thirty* more patients, with buboes, chancres, and excoriations, beside the thirteen formerly transmitted to Dr. Beddoes; “and so convinced are we now
“ of its efficacy” (says Dr. G.) “that mercury, in
“ such cases, has been but little used in this hos-
“ pital since the nitrous acid was adopted.” He remarks that “a certain quantity of the nitrous
“ acid must be administered before the venereal
“ appearances vanish;—but this certain quantity
“ we have not, as yet, been able exactly to
“ ascertain.”

Dr. Geach here “evidently alludes” to my circular letter copied by Dr. Beddoes, (as this gentleman acknowledges p. 35,) and speaks rather warmly concerning the nature of his cases. “Men of
“ the opposite opinion,” says he, “will find it
“ very difficult to prove that these cases were
“ not venereal. We have proof enough to sub-

“stantiate the facts; or, if not deemed enough,
“we can call for, and obtain, the testimonies of the
“naval surgeons, who had attended the patients
“before they were sent to this hospital. These
“men, when cured, were returned to their re-
“spective ships, and none were sent back on
“account of imperfect cures. Several eminent
“practitioners, in this neighbourhood, were in-
“duced to visit the venereal patients when they
“first entered upon this nitrous acid plan, have
“seen them when their cures were advancing,
“and when completed. Could all these prac-
“titioners be mistaken in what they saw? Will
“the judgment of the naval surgeons be im-
“peached? And can those only decide, who had
“no opportunity of examining any of the patients,
“or be the arbitrators in this matter? Must such
“pronounce that the disorder of so many seamen
“and marines was mistaken, and the nitrous acid
“incompetent? Let us not sus-
“pect that prejudice, and a predominant *acid*,
“(d) can spur on opponents to invalidate mat-
ters

(d) In a note, Dr. Beddoes enquires whether this
word

“ ters of fact. We have indeed
“ been somewhat chagrined, when we have been
“ unsuccessful ; but we have not been provoked,
“ because we were not the first to bring this
“ medicine into vogue, neither have we been
“ envious at the rising reputation of others, nor
“ emulous of fame, nor eager after fortune.
“ Where we have been certain, we have been
“ bold; and when in doubt, we have been diffi-
“ dent.” The Dr. hopes (in conformity
with his own example) “ that the enquiry will be
“ conducted with *liberality and temper*, as all are
“ embarked in the cause of truth very interesting
“ to mankind.”

P. 41, exhibits a letter from Mr. HAMMICK,
of Plymouth, dated Royal Hospital, Nov. 14, 1797,
which gives the interesting intelligence of thirty-
six more cases having been successfully treated
with the nitrous acid, beside several others which
will be mentioned hereafter. Of these patients,
thirty-

word “ should be *pride*?” It is much to be regretted
that gentlemen should thus show their ill humour, and
stigmatize those who differ from them in judgment.

thirty-three laboured under primary symptoms, and three (viz. No. 18, 21, 23,) under the secondary stages of the disease: About twenty of them had used mercury, and some very liberally, before the nitrous acid was administered. It is worthy of remark, that one man's complaints (Case 32) got worse under the acid, for thirty-five days; and though his chancre was then very large, it healed completely in sixteen days from the time it shewed a favourable disposition: The quantity taken in this case was 100 drams, from Sept. 3rd to Oct. 23rd.

CASES XVIII, XXI, XXIII, merit particular attention, as being instances of secondary symptoms. I shall, therefore, detail them at length.

CASE XVIII. " *John English*, Seaman, 23 years
" of age, was received into this hospital, on the 13th
" day of September, 1797, for a venereal complaint,
" contracted about six weeks; had suffered se-
" verely from the disease about two years since;
" had not taken any medicine for this last in-
" fection: He had a phymosis, a chancre just
" within the prepuce, a venereal scab on both
" elbows

“ elbows and the upper part of one thigh. The
“ same day he was ordered three drams of the
“ nitrous acid, and twelve ounces of simple syrup
“ mixed with two pints of water, to be drank
“ daily. This nitrous drink he took regularly
“ to the 2nd day of October, when the chancre
“ and phymosis were healed; and the venereal
“ scales having falling off, and left the integuments
“ clear, he was that day discharged cured.”

CASE XXI. *William Davis*, Seaman, about 32
“ years of age, was received into this hospital
“ on the 29th day of July, 1797, for a venereal
“ eruption, which appeared about three months
“ since: Before that time he had severe nocturnal
“ pains; his whole body was now covered with
“ eruptions, particularly numerous on his arms,
“ and much elevated above the skin. These
“ eruptions had resisted every thing on board.
“ The next day he was ordered one dram and
“ a half of nitrous acid, eight ounces of simple
“ syrup, and two pints of the decoction of woods,
“ to be drank every day.—August 24th, erup-
“ tions paler; nitrous acid encreased to two drams
“ daily: 30th, several eruptions faded off; nitrous
“ acid

“ acid encreased to two drams and a half daily ;
“ which he continued constantly to the 2nd of
“ October, when évery spot being obliterated, he
“ was discharged cured.”

CASE XXIII. “ *Michael Baron*, Seaman, 36 years
“ of age, was received into this hospital, on the 29th
“ day of July, 1797, for a venereal eruption on the
“ face, and all over the body, attended with noc-
“ turnal pains of the tibia, He had these erup-
“ tions six months; and had taken a large quantity
“ of mercury, on board, without producing a
“ ptyalism: The next day, he was ordered one
“ dram and a half of nitrous acid, seven ounces
“ of simple syrup, and two pints of the decoction
“ of woods, to be drank daily.—August 13th,
“ eruptions increased, nocturnal pains less, drink
“ continued.—August 29th, some of the erup-
“ tions disappeared, nitrous acid increased to two
“ drams daily.—Sept. 7th, eruptions gone from
“ the face, fewer on the body, and not pro-
“ minent as before. He took daily the drink, to
“ the 4th of October ; when it was discontinued,
“ as his eruptions and pains were removed. The
“ patient was sent to another ward ; as he had a
“ rigidity

“ rigidity of the tendon of the biceps flexor cubiti,
“ in consequence of a hurt received on board.”

At p. 69 is recorded the case of WILLIAM DENHAM, who, after having been salivated for a chancre, without benefit, was admitted into the Plymouth Hospital, and underwent the treatment with the nitrous acid. In three weeks, the sore had healed to within the size of a common pea; he went on still taking the acid to the extent of *one hundred and twenty-six drams*, without getting a cure: For five successive nights, two drams of strong mercurial ointment were then rubbed in, which produced a violent ptyalism; the chancre spread under this treatment, but in six days “ it relented and “ healed” without any evident cause.

At pp. 70—73, are detailed *three cases* of bad chancres, treated successfully with the SULPHURIC ACID, in the proportion of a dram to a dram and a half daily. One of these patients had never used mercury.

Mr. Hammick's communication is followed by another epistle, dated December 11, 1797, from

Dr. GEACH, accompanied with six additional
“ cases of men cured of gonorrhœa, by the nitrous
“ acid only, and some of them without any kind of
“ injection. Under the course of this acid, the
“ appearance of the disease has vanished, and no
“ swelling nor ulcer has followed. The heat
“ abated, without either cooling or mucilaginous
“ drinks; no particular regimen of diet was ob-
“ served, and no apparent ill whatever has been
“ done to the constitution. The cure of gonor-
“ rhœa, often tedious under the usual mode of
“ treatment, and sometimes injurious to the habit,
“ has been in those instances adduced com-
“ pleted in three weeks or a month.” It is sug-
gested however, that this plan of cure did not
succeed “ in eight or nine instances, although these
“ unsuccessful cases did not seem to be differently
“ circumstanced from others in which this medicine
“ had been efficacious.”

“ Perhaps it might be right” (Dr. Geach observes)
“ to begin with the nitrous acid, and to carry it on
“ to two or even three hundred drams; if the dis-
“ ease does not relent at all, to use the friction,
“ and after that, whether the malady be subdued

“ or

“ or not, to have recourse again to the nitrous
“ acid as a restorative, as we have found it.” This
subject is resumed (p. 79) in another letter of the
24th of November, 1797, in which the Dr. corro-
borates his former remarks concerning the good
effects of the acid, given internally and by a very
weak injection, against the gónorrhœa.

A letter, of January 15, 1798, also relates the
successful event of a trial, in a case of chancre,
with the PHOSPHORIC ACID: This patient took two
drams, sweetened and diluted as before-mentioned,
every day, from the 17th of November, to the 7th
of December; when it was augmented to two
drams and a half, which he continued till the 11th
of January, 1798, and was then discharged well.

Farther information is sent by the same physician,
January 16, 1798: He mentions a singular effect
produced by the nitrous acid, in the cases of
Charles Macartney, and Joseph Renny. It was this:
“ Charles Macartney and Joseph Renney, who
“ had been under a course of the nitrous acid for
“ some days, (the quantity two drams to a quart of
“ water, and six ounces of syrup,) on taking

“ near a pint of the mixture at one draught, to-
“ wards evening, were seized, at midnight, with a
“ vertigo, pain in the head, throbbing of the heart,
“ and of the carotid arteries, with tremor. The
“ surface of the body, in the morning, appeared red;
“ but the lips and face were of a violet colour.
“ These symptoms and appearances soon went off;
“ and by a disuse of the medicine for a few days,
“ and on being enjoined not in future to drink so
“ great a quantity at a time, they never returned.—
“ This effect has been noticed only in two in-
“ stances. By these, we see plainly, that the
“ nitrous acid ought not to be taken in doses too
“ large at a time.”

A letter occurs at pages 77 and 78, from Mr. GEORGE CUSTANCE, of *Kidderminster*, January 13, 1798, detailing the deplorable case of a woman who had been previously treated with mercury, cicuta, opium, bark, decoction of the woods, &c. &c. without any advantage, during the space of nine months. She had two buboes, with a ragged cancerous appearance.—On the 8th of October the acid was began in the proportion of a dram daily : It was increased to two drams on the 13th, and
con-

continued, in that measure, without interruption, till she had taken *one pint, seven ounces, and five drams*. She had afterwards no complaint, but weakness from long confinement.

Mr. CUSTANCE, in a letter, dated May 23rd, 1798, states that this woman had not experienced the slightest sign of relapse, and was now in good health. Another case (p. 105) is recorded, of the good effects of the nitrous acid, in a bubo and chancre of three weeks standing.

Pages 82—85 contain a letter and cases of Mr. A. LAWRENCE, of *Liskeard*, Cornwall, July 15th, 1798. J—— M—— had laboured under syphilis upwards of ten years; during which time she had taken incalculable quantities of mercury. When Mr. Lawrence saw her, “there reached posteriorly, “ from the joint of the right shoulder, over almost “ the whole extent of the scapula, innumerable “ little sinuous ulcers, characterized by the hard “ and livid margin, so proper to the disease, and “ by that peculiar discharge which strikes an impression, *sui generis*, on the olfactories: She “ had nodes on the tibia of each leg, great stricture “ across

“ across the forehead, painful and restless nights,
“ impaired appetite ; in short, her general state of
“ health was much deranged, and her aspect truly
“ morbid.” The nitric acid was given immediately :
In a week, the pains in her head and shins diminished ;
after the end of another week, the edges of the ul-
cers became somewhat florid, the fetor was lessened,
and three or four of them were closing ; her pains
were now also greatly alleviated, her sleep was
comparatively good, and her appetite improved.
By persisting in the acid remedy, “ a complete
“ cure was effected.” She went under the care of
this Surgeon January the 2nd, and was discharged
well March 16, 1797.—Two other patients were
cured by the same means, in two months : Their symp-
toms were primary, and they had used no mercury.
—He also mentions, that “ a young gentleman
“ had for some time suffered under a *syphilitic*
“ *scabies*, affecting many parts of the body ; which
“ yielded in a surprisingly short space of time, to
“ an exhibition of the nitrous acid :” Mr. Lawrence
says, he has received the thanks of several military
and naval friends, for his recommendation of the acid,
“ which has removed their complaints after the usual
“ methods had failed.”

PAGES 85—93, MR. VAUGHAN MAY, Surgeon to his Majesty's Ordnance, *Plymouth Dock*, sends Dr. Beddoes an account of eight cases; which he selected from a number of others for no reason but because their cures had been perfected during the longest period: The first of which had been well upwards of twelve months, and the latter six. The effects of the acid were generally, a greater discharge of urine and perspiration, with costive bowels; sometimes griping and looseness were produced, but these inconveniencies were easily removed by an anodyne. Mr. May is satisfied that the ptyalism and soreness of the mouth, are "owing to the local action of the acid, as no thing like ulcer has been observed." He has tried it in scrofulous swellings, but in vain.

CASE I, was of a patient who had "the largest "bubo Mr. M— ever saw, and almost as hard as "a stone:" He also had deep chancres on the prepuce, attended with soreness and inflammation. The acid was given him from the 4th of March, 1797, to the 20th, when the tumour still remained hard and indolent: A few days after this it became softer, and seemed to suppurate at the bottom; it then rapidly decreased, and disappeared totally on the

the 14th of April. The remaining SEVEN CASES were of chancres and buboes, cured by the acid alone.

At pages 93—98 is a letter from Mr. SANDFORD, of Worcester, dated June the 1st, 1798. He mentions that several cases of venereal infection have fallen under his care, in different stages of the disease, since his last communications; and that his treatment with the pale nitric acid was successful in some of them, but not so in others. He particularly details the unsuccessful event of two trials in bad cases of bubo and chancres: but a third, with chancres and a spreading ulcer on the left tonsil, was speedily cured by the acid. Another patient, who had been long afflicted with pains, supposed to be venereal, was greatly benefited; and was restored to a better state of health than he had been for the two last years, during which he took mercury in a variety of forms. Upon the whole, Mr. Sandford augurs well of this new remedy, and advises the farther investigation of its properties.

Pages 98—100, In a note from Mr. FEILD, dated July 10, 1798, at Worcester, *four more cases*
of

of primary symptoms are related to have been cured with the nitrous acid.

At pages 100—105, are communications from Mr. DUNNING, *Plymouth Dock*, May 13, 1798. He has employed the acid in nearly twenty venereal cases, most of which were chancres and buboes; and all of them were cured either with this medicine alone, or conjoined with a few doses of calomel. He believes “it will frequently cure (a desideratum “ of vast importance) when mercurials fail, and “ rather aggravate the disease.” Three bad cases are recited, in which mercury had completely failed: The first, was a node of some years standing; the second, extensive ulcerations and warts upon the penis; the last, a gentleman who had three times used about a pound of mercurial ointment, beside frequent doses of calomel, for ill conditioned chancres.

Page 106—108, Mr. JAMES LYND, *late Surgeon to the Phaeton*, June 22, 1798, states that he had tried the nitrous acid in SEVEN CASES: They were selected as well marked instances of Lues Venerea, and the remedy was given, as strong as the patient
y could

could bear it, for above a fortnight; but “the
“ treatment failed in *all* the cases, and he had
“ recourse to mercury, which succeeded as usual.”
This gentlemen, however, applied the pulp of several
roasted lemons to a very livid and immense open
bubo, with the most happy effect : During *one night*
a circular slough formed in the ulcer, and it looked
of a healthy red ; after two more such poultices the
sore began to granulate, and was then cured by
mercury, joined with tonic medicines.

Dr. ROLLO's *note*, respecting the decomposition
and detection of oxygenated muriate of potash in
the urine of certain patients, is recorded at page 109.
I have already, in the first part of my Essay, given
this intelligence at full length ; and it is a fact worthy
the attention of practitioners.

At p. 110 are cases from Mr. JAMES Mc GRIGOR,
Surgeon of the 88th Regiment. The first is that of
Sergeant Fox, who had laboured under the Lues
Venerea four months. “ In June, 1797, he was
“ admitted into the regimental hospital, with several
“ chancres, ulcers in the palate, swellings of the
“ frontal bones, and of the bones of his legs and arms.

After

“ After undergoing a course of mercury, the
“ chancres were healed, and the other symptoms
“ disappeared. Two months after his dismissal,
“ the ulcers of his throat and the nodes appeared
“ again : He underwent another course of mercury;
“ which not removing the symptoms, he succes-
“ sively used the Lisbon diet drink; the same with
“ opium; and lastly, the compound decoction of
“ sarsaparilla, opium, and mercury conjoined.
“ His general health suffering much, bark, and dif-
“ ferent articles of nourishing diet, were ordered
“ him. The disease seemed still to gain ground,
“ till the 26th of January, 1798; when he first
“ began the *nitrous acid*, and took one dram daily.”
By the 22nd of February, his ulcers were healed,
there was very little pain in his bones, and the nodes
had decreased. During the use of the acid, so vi-
olent a salivation came on that it was obliged to be
discontinued a week : It afterwards, on resuming it,
occasioned a cardialgia, vomiting, swelled gums, and
a return of the ptyalism, which made it needful to
reduce the daily quantity to two scruples. On the
8th of March, “ the salivation being very great, the
“ acid was stopped; but the ulcers were totally
disappeared, he had no nocturnal pains, and the

swellings of his bones were greatly diminished. On the 16th, he was dismissed for duty; at which time the salivation was quite gone.—“N. B. This case returned in six weeks, with violent pain and swelling of the bones; but no ulcer of the throat: He was soon after sent to the royal invalides, and I have not since heard of him.”

“CASE II. *Thomas Jordan*, aged 26, of a scrofulous appearance, was admitted into the regimental hospital, on the 26th of March, 1798, labouring under the secondary symptoms of syphilis. For eighteen months past, he has been subject to nocturnal pains, nodes, and painful swellings of bones, particularly of frons, tibiæ, and ancles, pain across hypogastric region, restlessness, loss of flesh and appetite, sweatings. Previous to his admission at this time, he had been much reduced from a long and severe catarrhal complaint, frequent cough, and habitual dyspnœa, which last has encreased lately. He had been repeatedly salivated by mercury alone, and in conjunction with decoct. sarsap. comp. which he likewise used for a long time, without any material benefit. From the weakly and
“ irri-

“ irritable state he was in, it was thought advisable
“ to begin the nitrous acid in very small doses.”
This medicine having been exhibited, “ without in-
“ convenience,” the dose was gradually augmented;
and, on the 1st of May, the patient took two
drams per diem. He had now been under the use
of the acid upwards of five weeks: But “ the
“ nodes were nearly as bad as ever; that on the
“ forehead seemed to be less painful; the others
“ remaining in the same state. He had œdema of
“ his legs; although he did not stir out: Appetite
“ for the most part unimpaired. R Acidi nitrosi
“ ʒijss, Aquæ fontanæ ℥ij, Syrupi simplicis ʒij,
“ M. Utatur quotidie.”

“ It was continued in this quantity, with little
“ variety of the symptoms; except that it once, as
“ he thought, produced head-ach some time after
“ taking it.—May the 8th, as he had now a long
“ trial of this remedy, and as its immediate effects
“ on the system in general, and on the stomach
“ and bowels in particular, were severe, and even
“ hazardous, and *without being of any service in the*
“ *removal of the original affection*, it was exhibited in
“ a smaller dose, and given along with sarsaparilla.”

On

On the 17th, no material change having taken place, the acid medicine was discontinued.

CASE III. *John Wood* was admitted into the hospital March 17, 1798; with "several venereal
" ulcers on the glans penis, of but a few days dura-
" tion. R Acidi nitrosi ʒifs, Aquæ fontanæ ℥ifs,
" Tincturæ aromat. ʒj. Sumat quotidie. La-
" ventur ulcuscula lotione saturnina." His chan-
cres began to look cleaner in four or five days,
and his gums were then slightly affected.—" March
" 28th, salivates considerably, sores quite cica-
" trized." The acid was continued in the same
proportion till the 4th of April, at which time the
salivation had not mitigated its violence. The pa-
tient was discharged, cured of all his complaints, on
the 9th of April.

"CASE IV. *Sergeant Mc Gruther*, in the
" course of the last four years, has often had ve-
" nereal complaints, which had been removed by
" mercury.—April 5th, 1798, was admitted with
" gonorrhœa, swelled tonsils, and several small
" ulcers in the fauces. He had likewise some
" small ulcerations on the perinœum, and in the
" neigh-

“neighbourhood of the anus.” He used an astringent injection, and took a dram and a half of the acid daily; beside which, a cataplasm was applied to the external fauces. 18th, “Gonorrhœa gone, “swelling of fauces subsiding, and ulcers contracting: Pergat.” The patient was dismissed for duty on the 26th.

CASE V. *Thomas Rooney*, was suspected to have the lues venerea lurking in his constitution. He was, however, in perfect health, when he was received as a patient, except “a swelling and pain “near the verge of the anus:” By taking the acid, from the 6th of April to the 18th, he was cured of these complaints.

CASE VI. *Mr. M——* was much relieved from old venereal pains of his bones, and ulceration of his throat, by the free exhibition of the acid; but phthisis pulmonalis put an end to his existence, before the cure was completed.

CASE VII. *Mr. F——* had four recent chancres, foul and sloughy: They were touched with nitrated silver (lunar caustic) the day before he began

began the acid. After taking two ounces, the chan-
cres entirely disappeared.

CASE VIII. *Samuel Bell*, had several very
bad primary symptoms. Red nitrated mercury and
an emollient poultice, were applied to the sores :
From one dram and a half to three drams of the
acid, mixed with water, were also given daily.
Every venereal appearance was removed in four-
teen days : But he still continued the acid, on the
23rd of July, 1798.

Mr. Mc GRIGOR, in his remarks on these eight
Cases, says that “ every thing appears to be highly
“ favourable to the acid. In five cases, it was the
“ sole means of effecting a cure ; which, at the
“ present time, appears permanent and solid.”——
He adds, that the oxygenated muriatic acid had
been given, in three cases of secondary symptoms ;
that “ in one it succeeded ; in another, entirely
“ failed ; in the third case, for a time, the symptoms
“ disappeared, and a cure seemed to have been
“ obtained, but in two months after, the patient
“ had a return of ALL his symptoms, and at pre-
sent

“ sent is using the nitrous acid, apparently with
“ great benefit.” In these experiments Mr. M^r
Grigor used “the nitrous acid of the shops”

P. 120—125. The next communication is from Dr. CARMICHAEL of Birmingham, dated July 10, 1798; and it appears, on some accounts, to be one of the most valuable in the whole collection. This gentleman informs Dr. Beddoes that he began to prescribe the acid “in various stages of the dis-
“ case; and although he has in no instance been
“ able to effect a cure, he has more or less per-
“ sisted in this practice,” on account of the great attention which has been paid to it, and because
“ the new medicine is reported generally to have
“ proved a speedy, safe, and effectual remedy.” He has not been able to detect any difference between the effects of the nitric and of the nitrous acid. In one case he also exhibited the hyperoxygenated muriate of potash; but, the result was unfavourable. Dr. C. however, conceives that the acid is not entirely destitute of powers: And what those powers are, he explains in the following manner.

“ The diluting medium, which I have directed, has
“ been either water alone, or water gruel, which I re-
“ commended with the intention of more accurately
“ ascertaining the effects of a new medicine.—It is
“ not improbable that the addition of sugar may be
“ of more consequence than has hitherto been sus-
“ pected. The reports of Dr. Geach and Mr.
“ Hammick, when compared with mine, confirm
“ this suspicion. Those gentlemen and myself
“ have given the acid in nearly equal quantities;
“ they have added large portions of syrup; I have
“ diluted with water, or water gruel only; they
“ have *seldom failed* to cure the disease; while, in *no*
“ *one instance* have I succeeded. Recent cases of
“ the venereal disease seldom came under my
“ notice: In those which follow, the constitutions
“ of my patients were affected,”

“ A poor female had laboured under syphilis
“ for five years, without using any remedy. She
“ was reduced to the utmost distress. The genitalia
“ were in one continued ulcer, and the skin was
“ covered with scabs, which, in some places falling
“ off, left beneath foul ulcerations. She was much
“ emaciated. Her appetite and strength were
“ greatly

“ greatly impaired, and pains of the head and ex-
“ tremities deprived her of rest. She took of the
“ nitric acid, at first, $\mathfrak{z}\text{iss}$, and afterwards $\mathfrak{z}\text{ii}$, pro-
“ perly diluted, for six weeks; but her sufferings
“ were in no respect mitigated. It was therefore
“ omitted; and she took of oxygenated muriate of
“ potash, from $\mathfrak{z}\text{vss}$ to $\mathfrak{z}\text{vj}$, beginning with doses
“ of five grains, four times a day, which were
“ soon increased to a scruple at the same intervals.
“ From this remedy she did not experience more
“ relief; but as her appetite and general health
“ were somewhat recruited by rest and a more ge-
“ nerous diet, I determined to make a further trial
“ of oxymuriated kali; and for this purpose
“ I proposed a solution of potash, impregnated
“ under strong pressure nearly to the point of
“ crystallization, with the fumes of oxygenated
“ muriatic acid; and of this excessively volatile
“ and unpalatable liquor she took $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$ daily, for
“ three weeks, but without deriving from its use
“ any of those good effects which report had so
“ loudly extolled. Hopes of cure by this method
“ were now abandoned, and the disease soon
“ yielded to mercurial friction.

“ The next case, which I shall notice, was that
“ of another female, who had an ulcerated throat,
“ and considerable degree of inflammation of the
“ tunica conjunctiva of both eyes spreading upon
“ the cornea. The upper cluster of glands of the
“ left groin was considerably enlarged, and she had
“ a slight discharge from the vagina. The ingui-
“ nal induration was evidently the produce of fatigue
“ from walking, a day or two previous to my seeing
“ her, and entirely subsided in a few days after ;
“ but her other symptoms were permanent. She
“ took of the nitric acid zifs, diluted with water
“ gruel, and persevered in its use for six weeks ;
“ but her throat had not altered in appearance, and
“ her ophthalmia had evidently gained ground.
“ The acid was therefore laid aside, and mercurial
“ friction soon effected a cure.

“ SARAH KEELING, when she applied for re-
“ lief at the Birmingham General Hospital, had her
“ tonsils extensively ulcerated, her shoulders and
“ face occupied by a copious eruption, and on
“ each tibia a very painful enlargement. Five
“ months had elapsed since the origin of her com-
“ plaints, and she had taken no mercury. The
“ nitric

“ nitric acid was directed in doses of ten drops, six
“ times a day, diluted with water gruel, and soon
“ increased to double that quantity. At the end of
“ three weeks, the enlargements of the tibiæ sup-
“ purating, she applied to be admitted into the
“ House. On the first night after admission, and
“ on that only, she rubbed about ʒi of mercurial
“ ointment upon the inside of her thigh; but on the
“ day thereafter, she recommenced the use of the
“ acid, and persevered for three months, and for
“ a considerable part of that time, took ʒiij, daily.
“ Her sore throat, eruption, and ulcerated tibiæ,
“ were now healed; but pains of her head, shoul-
“ ders, and legs, which originated during the use of
“ the acid, gave her much uneasiness. She remained
“ in the House three weeks longer, taking the acid,
“ without any alleviation of her pains, when she was
“ made an out-patient, and took Peruvian bark and
“ salt of steel, but without benefit. Mercury was
“ at last had recourse to, and her pains were re-
“ moved, and her health re-established.”

“ THOMAS KEELING, when he applied to me
“ for relief, had the back part of his throat and
“ tonsils extensively ulcerated, and complained of

“ ex-

“ excruciating pains, which affected his head,
“ shoulders, and extremities. He informed me,
“ that his throat had been sore for six weeks, but that
“ two months previous to his present complaints,
“ he had had a small sore on the prepuce, which had
“ soon yielded to the means which had been em-
“ ployed. For his present complaints he had taken
“ no medicines.

“ I directed him to take fifteen drops of nitrous
“ acid, in half a pint of water gruel, four times a
“ day, which was augmented to a hundred and
“ twenty, and soon thereafter to a hundred and
“ eighty drops, in the same time. At the end of
“ six weeks, the sores of his throat looked cleaner,
“ and in size were somewhat contracted; but his
“ pains were not alleviated; and although he per-
“ severd for a month longer, his ulcerations were
“ but little reduced, and his pains were equally
“ distressing. After such a trial, I could not per-
“ sist longer in a plan, which held out such prospects.

“ WILLIAM VALE had extensive ulceration of
“ the tonsils, and back of the throat, and a copious
“ eruption, occupying especially the face, shoulders,
“ breast

“ breast, and arms. These symptoms had appear-
“ ed six weeks previous to his application to me ;
“ but he had used no means for their removal.
“ As in the last case, he took first sixty, then a
“ hundred and twenty, and at last a hundred and
“ eighty drops of nitrous acid, diluted sufficiently
“ with water gruel, in the space of twenty-four
“ hours. After eight weeks perseverance, the
“ back of the throat was considerably better ; but
“ the tonsils, still ulcerated, had contracted a
“ knotty, irregular, callous appearance ; and the
“ eruption, with some trifling variation, continued
“ as when I first saw him. He continued the same
“ plan for three weeks longer, without further per-
“ ceptible advantage, when I recommended to him
“ to use mercury. I saw no more of my patient
“ for three months, when he applied at the Hos-
“ pital to be cured of what he imagined to be
“ rheumatism. His throat was better than when I
“ last examined it, and his eruption was less co-
“ pious ; but pains of his head, arms, and legs,
“ which he had had for two months, were become
“ so distressing, as to demand all his attention.
“ He had not used any mercury, as had been
“ directed. I had no inducement to try the acid
“ further.

“ further in this case; he was therefore directed
“ mercurial frictions, and was rapidly recovering,
“ when it was found necessary to discharge him
“ from the House, on account of repeated
“ irregularities.”

Mr. HAMMICK (p. 126) in compliance with the request of Dr. Beddoes, employed the oxygenated muriate of potash by way of inunction; but in three cases of primary symptoms, it proved unsuccessful. “ Each of those patients rubbed in two drachms of
“ the muriate, mixed with equal parts of hogs-lard,
“ on their thighs, for more than thirty nights successively, without producing any amendment.
“ In fact, under this treatment, their disorders
“ evidently gained ground; and they complained
“ that the potash made their thighs very sore, and
“ that much of the salt remained on them after the
“ axunge had disappeared.”

P. 126—129, three cases are related by Mr. CHARLES BROWN, Surgeon, of London. After a few preliminary observations, he adds that ALL practitioners “agree in these points” respecting the nitrous acid; “that it mends the appetite, strength-

“ ens

“ens the constitution, and on many occasions supersedes mercury.” The first case recited by Mr. B. is that of a person who had laboured five weeks under a venereal infection, and was believed to have taken no medicine for it: his symptoms were chancres, excoriations, and a fœtid discharge from the glans penis; together with ulcerated tonsils, and copper-coloured eruptions all over his body. A dram and a half of the acid was given daily for a fortnight, diluted in water only; and a gargle, containing muriated mercury, was employed at the same time. All the symptoms yielded speedily under this treatment; and in another fortnight, when the daily quantity of the acid was augmented to two drams, the patient “was perfectly well.”

CASE II. *Mary Gowan* put herself under Mr. B's care January 22, 1798: when she had a suppurating bubo, almost ready to burst, with her velum pendulum palati quite eaten away, her tonsils much ulcerated, two large chancres, dreadful nocturnal pains in the calves of her legs, and “a copious discharge from the *urethra*.” She took from two drams to two and a half of the acid, every day, till the 28th of February, “when

“ she was quite free from all symptoms. Under
“ the foregoing treatment, the contents of the bubo
“ were absorbed.”

CASE III, is not less remarkable than the other two. I shall take the liberty to copy it at full length. “ Mr. W. P. applied to me, February
“ 16th. He had two very deep and extensive
“ venereal ulcers behind the glans penis, with
“ ragged and hardened edges. A great discharge
“ from the urethra, and a pain in the back part of
“ his head, which at intervals drove him almost to
“ distraction. He had a node on his left leg, and
“ an incipient bubo in his right groin. After
“ taking of the nitrous acid ʒij per diem, for
“ three weeks, he found no amendment. His
“ bowels were much griped, and he was frequently
“ sick at the stomach. I was willing to give the
“ acid a fair trial, and accordingly requested of him
“ to continue it a fortnight longer, which he did,
“ but with little or no alteration, excepting that the
“ bubo disappeared. I directed him to inhale
“ twenty quarts of oxygene gas, moderately diluted,
“ daily, which he did for twelve days, when the
“ enemy shewed a disposition to remove. The
“ acid

“ acid was accordingly exhibited again, and the
“ vital air given at the same time; and, in less than
“ *a fortnight*, he was quite well.”

P. 129—136, contain the result of Dr. CUR-
RIE'S experience. We have formerly been fa-
voured with an hint on this subject, by Dr. C.
which was decidedly in support of the acid. (See
part I. section II.) The cases in which he made
his first trials are here detailed; and, so far as
regards the primary symptoms, they are certainly
encouraging: But the secondary symptoms did not
generally yield to the new remedy alone. One
man, indeed, named ELKINS, was apparently cured
of the most obstinate complaints; and his case is
well worthy attention.

“ About four years ago he was effected by lues,
“ with the usual symptoms, for which he under-
“ went a course of mercury, and was supposed
“ cured. In about nine months afterwards, how-
“ ever, the disease appeared in his throat, and in
“ obstinate pains in his head, &c. He was again
“ salivated, and with similar good effect. Twelve
“ months after this, having been for a considerable

“ time subject to what was supposed to be rheu-
“ matism, the disease appeared again, and resisted
“ the long-continued and repeated use of mercury,
“ under a practitioner here, of the first eminence.
“ He was at length obliged to abandoned it, having
“ been reduced to a state of extreme weakness.
“ About three months after this, he was admitted
“ a patient into our hospital, and under my care.
“ At this time he had a thickening of the pericra-
“ nium in two different places, the most severe
“ pains, especially in the night, in the bones of his
“ head, arms, and legs, and a large encreasing node
“ on the right tibia. All his symptoms were at
“ this time encreasing; and having taken so much
“ mercury in vain, he was in a state of extreme
“ despondence and depression.

“ We prescribed the nitric acid, and his sufferings
“ abated from the third day ; and being continued,
“ the thickening of the pericranium and the node
“ of the tibia entirely disappeared, with all his
“ other symptoms. He took the nitric acid, in all,
“ to the quantity of eight ounces in eight gallons
“ of water, which he drank in sixty days.”

“ ELKINS has been nearly a year discharged,
“ and has never had any return of his complaints.
“ This case has made some noise, and I have en-
“ deavoured to attract the attention of several of
“ my brethren to it, as decisive of the influence of
“ the acid in this destructive disease.”

“ On the other hand,” says Dr. Currie, “ there
“ are a still more considerable number of cases,
“ in which the acid has entirely failed me, or pro-
“ duced only partial benefit; and at present,
“ though I always order it internally, with mercu-
“ rial inunctions on the skin, I do not trust the
“ cure to it alone *in the first instance*. Combined
“ with mercury in this way, the constitution seems
“ to support the action of the metal better, and the
“ cure to be accomplished more safely and more
“ speedily. In several instances where, after a
“ course of the nitric acid, it has been thought
“ advisable to have recourse to mercury, a very
“ small quantity of the ointment (in one case two
“ drachms only) has produced complete ptyalism.
“ This has occurred so frequently, that I do not
“ think the conjunction accidental.”

“ The

“ The nitric acid has never been pushed by me
“ to the extent, in which it has been used by
“ others; in many of the cases, in which it has
“ apparently failed, I cannot pretend to say, that
“ it would not have succeeded, if pushed to a
“ greater length; but I have not thought it proper
“ to carry it to any extent injurious to the stomach
“ or bowels, while the salutary effects of mercurial
“ inunction remained untried. In the quantities
“ in which I have prescribed it, it has been uni-
“ formly salutary to the constitution, in this respect
“ its action contrasting very happily with that of
“ mercury. In the cases in which it has apparently
“ succeeded (in my hands) in the cure of lues,
“ I have not known a relapse to take place; but
“ as the patients have been chiefly seafaring per-
“ sons, it is not in my power to trace their history
“ subsequent to our parting. In one case of the
“ primary disease, in the hospital of the 20th re-
“ giment, the assistant surgeon, who thought it had
“ effected a complete cure, found the disease break
“ out in the throat, at the distance of four months,
“ and finally removed it by mercury.”

Dr. Currie notices, in a very explicit manner,
the

the ordinary circumstances attending the salutary operation of the acid in Lues Venerea. He remarks, that the gums were always affected with tenderness and redness; and the action of the salivary glands, from the local effects of the medicine, was likewise increased. There was generally a considerable increase of urine; which was turbid, whitish, or of a brown hue. The appetite and chearfulness of his patients were improved; their pulse was always rendered more frequent; their animal heat was augmented from one to two degrees, but diminished again at night, by more or less of sensible perspiration.

• This ingenious physician concludes by suggesting that he advances these cases and observations with diffidence; and would not willingly have written at all, “ had there not appeared a danger of the attention of medical men being wholly withdrawn from the investigation of a subject, which, though difficult, seems to be not only curious in itself, but likely to produce important consequences to the healing art.”

Mr. WILMER, of Coventry (p. 136—145,) details

tails two cases ; in one of which, the acid, assisted by a stimulating lotion of vitriolated zinc and acetated cerusse, healed several extensive ulcers : In the second case, after a very tedious and varied course of mercury, conjoined with several other medicines, during which no benefit was ultimately received, the patient was cured of his complaints (very malignant phagedænic buboes) by the persevering use of nitrous acid and peruvian bark, with the pulp of boiled turnips as a local application. It is not clearly obvious that mercury was at any time necessary, in either of these cases ; nor that the acid is entitled to the epithet of an anti-venereal remedy, from the happy consequences which it apparently produced.

Page 146—148. Two extracts of letters are given, from Dr. ANDREW M. GROSSE, of the Island of Nevis, which prove the good effects of nitrous and muriatic acids, in cases of syphilis and YAWS, wherein mercurials had long been administered without success. These trials were not deemed fully conclusive ; but they undoubtedly augur well, so far as they go.

In taking upon me the inconvenience of prosecuting this inquiry, and thereby running the hazard to gain a large share of obloquy, my end was to render a service to the community; and the mean by which I hoped to accomplish this object, was by accumulating well authenticated FACTS for the establishment of general conclusions. I now am arrived at a part of Dr. Beddoes's compilation, from whence little or no assistance can be derived in this respect; since the following pages are chiefly occupied either by petulant criticisms, explanatory observations, or matters not intimately connected with the leading question.

*The flimsy remarks which occur from page 149 to 185 are written by a person who has chosen to entrench himself in the recesses of obscurity. Although on this account, he is certainly not entitled to particular attention, and therefore will not meet with a direct reply, I shall perhaps be thought a little too fastidious were his objections to be passed over without any notice at all: But what I have to advance in vindication of my own practice, and of the cases which I have formerly detailed, will be reserved for another section of this Essay.

For the present, I have only to remind the anonymous writer and his friend Dr. Beddoes, that harsh, contemptuous, or reproachful language, tends to darken rather than illumine the subject, by exciting unbecoming passions and prejudices in readers: Such weapons, therefore, ought not to be used in our researches after truth.—It adds no weight or importance whatever to these strictures, to be told by Dr. B. that “*they come from a person extremely conversant in venereal affections;*” for the specimen here given of his abilities, affords palpable proof of the contrary; and the editor himself appears, by some of his animadversions, to have shaken his reputation for practical knowledge, at least in this branch of physic.

But, I proceed in selecting the FACTS which yet remain to be noticed in this publication. Page 206 exhibits a letter from Mr. Hammick, dated March 30, 1798, in which he states the number of patients cured in *his* wards, at the Royal Hospital, Plymouth, since November, 1797. *Thirty-seven* men had been discharged cured, by the acid *alone*, in different stages of the venereal disease: Fourteen of them had not taken any other medicine,

nor used any topical application. Sixteen of Mr. Hainmick's patients had gonorrhœa, and five of these had all the symptoms of a virulent affection; but *all* of them were cured by the nitrous acid injection and drink, without any of the common methods of treatment. While these instances of success are recorded, Mr. H. very candidly acknowledges that he has "failed in *many* instances; but " this failure of the nitrous acid has been in not " conquering the symptoms at *first*; for when once " removed, they have never, to his knowledge, " occurred again." If some of them had experienced a relapse, Mr. H. nevertheless thinks " that " ought not to discourage gentlemen from giving the " nitrous acid; as we often find the venereal disease " appearing again after the best conducted courses of " mercury."—He adds, "from the whole it appears " that the nitrous acid succeeds better in chancres, " indurated and phagedenic buboes, excoriations " about the arms, scrotum, and pubes, phymosis, " warts on the prepuce and glans, blotches on the " face and scalp, than in the other symptoms of " this disorder: And we think the most adviseable " method to be pursued, in *almost* ALL cases, is " to begin with the nitrous acid; and if, after

“ three weeks or a month's continuance, it should
“ be found that the symptoms have not relented,
“ then it would be right to discontinue the acid,
“ and give mercury, in some form or other, for a
“ short time (not so long as to induce a mercurial
“ habit) and then to begin anew with the acid.”
Mr. H. has “never in any instance” witnessed the
“ smallest disposition tending to ptyalism,” produced by the acid; although it was given to Thomas Skinner, in four months and five days, to the quantity of “ 307 drachms.”

As Mr. H. had given no subsequent account of any relapse to Dr. Beddoes, “ the insinuations derived from the possibility of spontaneous recovery, and from the non-permanency of cures, are, in the present state of our information, of no avail against the new medicines.” Dr. B. here says, “ there is a particular statement” (in the first part of my Essay page 219,) “ which might be interpreted in disparagement of the treatment by nitrous acid in the Plymouth Hospital: But that statement is grossly erroneous.” The egregious mistatement alluded to is this, that John Nowland, who was treated with the acid in the

Lock

Lock-Hospital, *‘informed me of his having been
‘ previously treated in a similar manner at the Ply-
‘ mouth Hospital. His account was, that he had
‘ been admitted there in the beginning of December
‘ last, and that he was discharged, as an invalid un-
‘ fit for service, “after having taken a sour medicine
“ for two months.”* I shall hereafter have occasion
to recite the progress of John Nowland’s case.
“It were to be wished (says Dr. B.) that this man
“could have been cross-examined into confession
“of the truth: Then, *perhaps*, the nitrous acid
“would not have been deprived of the honour of
“a BRILLIANT CURE of confirmed lues.” If
perhaps may be admitted in a question of fact, per-
haps many of the supposed BRILLIANT CURES by
nitrous acid resemble that of John Nowland, who
at this time (April the 8th, 1799) is in reality un-
cured! It appears, by a letter from Mr. Hammick,
that John Nowland took the nitrous acid “only
“twenty days, instead of two months;” and that
his case was uncommonly deplorable when he was
invalided: But my veracity, I apprehend, cannot,
in the smallest degree, be impeached by this man’s
incorrectness; as I merely reported his own state-
ment, and characterised his words by inverted
commas.

commas. In truth, John Nowland, who is still under my care, gives nearly the same account as before. Upon the whole, however, I perfectly agree with Dr. Beddoes, that "CREDULITY" imputes cures and failures to different practices, on very false statements (*e*); and, if he be not more fortunate than fame reports of him, even *his own* discriminating powers have not preserved him entirely immaculate.

P. 214 offers an hint for the annihilation of Mr. Benjamin BELL's evidence. "Mr. Benjamin Bell
" has strongly warned the public against the nitrous
" acid. He asserts that *the most distressful conse-*
" *quences have ensued in ALL the instances in which*
" *he has known this acid to be depended upon for a*
" *cure, the disease having rapidly gained ground in*
" *ALL of them.*" This declaration, observes Dr. B. "can avail but little with thinking men;" and why? Because the exact number of his cases is not specified by Mr. Bell. "He may alike mean five,
ten,

(*e*) "On what false statements credulity imputes
" cures and failures to different practices, is shewn by
" the daily history of medicine and quackery." p. 212.

“ ten, fifty, or an hundred.” Nevertheless, be they many or few, ALL of these trials completely failed; and five trials by an old surgeon of large experience, may chance to be worth *fifty* by some other experimentalists. In the former reports, and in the present collection, are “ found unfavourable attestations from authors to whom the editor “ is intimately convinced that it would have been “ far more agreeable to report full success;” and Dr. B. p. 215, mentions “two surgical practitioners “ who have informed him that they could do nothing with nitrous acid. The abilities of both “ *I rate highly,*” says he; and yet, those persons who are not his own correspondents, must be branded with hard names and rude insinuations, as if they had “neither clearness of head nor talents “ for observation.”

A case is recorded, page 216, from Dr. CLARK of Newcastle, which illustrates the advantages of perseverance. This patient had taken the *American Tincture*, supposed to be a solution of muriated mercury, during five weeks, for a very foul spreading ulcer upon the glans and prepuce. Three months after the appearance of this sore (Oct. 26, 1797,) he
applied

applied to Dr. Clark, and was ordered one drachm of the nitric acid, mixed with eight ounces of water, and four ounces of syrup, to be drank daily. A few days after, the acid was increased to two drams, and, in a short time longer, to three drams daily. The sore was nearly healed in one month, though at first the ulceration extended itself; and, on the 18th of December, when he was taking four drams and a half of the nitric acid daily, it had "almost perfectly cicatrised." January 1, 1798, after a fresh sloughing, the sore was small, deep, and foul at bottom. By persevering, it nevertheless became clean again in a fortnight, and was cicatrised on the 25th of January; at which period he had taken 308 drams. There is no reason to believe any relapse happened, as he had not applied again on the 7th of October following: Dr. C. is however "of opinion that a cure would have been more speedily effected, by a well conducted mercurial course." He mentions an instance of confirmed lues, where no mercury had been previously taken, in which nitric acid, given for fourteen days, did not occasion the disease to yield; and says, in private practice, where the cases have been very urgent, he has not trusted to this remedy, but "prescribed mercury."

" In

“ In a few desperate cases of long standing, where
“ from neglect, and from trifling practice at first,
“ mercury failed in removing the disease, I have
“ had recourse to the nitric acid ; but, I am sorry
“ to say, *without success.*” •

Mr. KENTISH, p. 220, confirms the above account by Dr. C. in which the patient took so large a quantity (308 drams) of the nitric acid. He further observes that in some other cases, especially where mercury has been previously pushed too far, the acid had been useful ; and, he thinks, the morbid effects of that mineral are more readily subdued by the acid of nitre, than by any other method now in practice.

From p. 221 to 228, is a very minute detail of the progress and treatment of a most deplorable case : But, as there was not any one distinct symptom of a syphilitic nature existing when the nitrous acid was exhibited, it does not clearly appear to illustrate the supposed antivenereal effects of that remedy. Dr. Beddoes seems of opinion that the complaint bore some remote affinity to syphilis, as certain ulcers, which supervene upon the healing of chancres, are analogous to real venereal sores ; but even this

relation to the lues, is nothing more than conjecture. Having mentioned the fallacy and obscurity of the disease, in this particular instance, Dr. B. argues (p. 229—230) on the *general* difficulty of discriminating between real and spurious symptoms of syphilis, in its confirmed state.—“ The Essay, if I
“ count right, has no less than seventeen out of
“ thirty-seven cases of confirmed lues, which exhibit
“ the failure of mercurials. It seems, therefore, as
“ if a *vast deal* of evidence respecting confirmed
“ lues, and that often of a questionable nature,
“ must be adduced, before the public can come
“ to any decision on the comparative merits of the
“ different methods. The search after
“ latent differencies in instances of syphilis appa-
“ rently similar, will tend to introduce an accuracy
“ of distinction hitherto unknown, however desira-
“ ble, in general medicine. Every reflecting prac-
“ titioner, I apprehend, must have regretted that all
“ diagnoses in diseases have been hitherto founded
“ on gross appearances; whereas, the different opera-
“ tion of the same remedies, daily demonstrates the
“ dissimilarity of cases pronounced similar. But
“ the dissimilarity depends on concealed motions and
“ combinations of motions, which we must learn to
“ detect,

“ detect, before our art can attain to any tolerable
“ certainty.”—He then proceeds in the same strain.

P. 231. “ To confine the investigation (in com-
“ pliance with a proposal already made, and of
“ which we shall hear again) to SECONDARY cases
“ chiefly, would be to sacrifice public utility to the
“ fastidiousness always manifested by persons who
“ affect peculiar lights, whether on this or any other
“ subject. We cannot long be deceived by the
“ natural course of the primary disorder. Spon-
“ taneous cures are by no means frequent; and
“ what diminishes the risque, is, that where chancres
“ disappear without medicine, secondary symptoms
“ will often break out. The great mother-problem
“ is, *Whether these remedies will do any sort of good in*
“ *the venereal disease?* The subordinate questions
“ are, *Whether the treatment recently proposed can be*
“ *substituted for the old; and under what circum-*
“ *stances? Whether the powers can be more advan-*
“ *tageously employed in conjunction than separately;*
“ *and under what circumstances?*”—A case recited
upon the authority of Dr. HOPE (*f*) with venereal

c c 2

ulcers

(*f*) A more full report of this curious case, by Dr.

ALBERS

ulcers on the breast, "goes very far" (Dr. B. says) "towards proving that the new substances have real antivenereal efficacy, similar in the ultimate result to mercurials." The case, in short, is as follows : A woman had sores of a venereal character around the nipple of her right breast, which she attributed to her having suckled an infected child. She was apparently cured by the internal use of the acid ; but the complaint relapsed very soon : She was again seemingly cured by the same remedy ; but, in three months, the sores returned : In a fortnight's time she was cured by mercury, under the care of Dr. GREGORY ; however, in about ten months, she experienced a third relapse. A course of the super-oxygenated muriate of potash healed the ulcerations once more ; but pains, which now afflicted her, rendered the completeness of her cure uncertain, and induced Dr. HAMILTON afterwards to employ mercury with a decoction of sarsaparilla : On the 10th of Sept. 1798, she was finally dismissed, as cured.— Dr. Beddoes here takes occasion (p. 236.) to suggest the

ALBERS, is given in the Appendix No. XI, page 275, translated from the original by Dr. Beddoes.

the necessity there is for investigating the doctrine of relapses, and the causes upon which they depend.

P. 238, 239, The result of the two cases formerly recorded by Dr. Beddoes and Mr. Baynton, is stated to have been unfavourable. On the 30th of Oct. 1798, Mr. BAYNTON found "Mr. H. labouring under many
" venereal symptoms. He had an ulcer in his
" throat, a thickening of the left ala nasi, with cop-
" per-coloured stains on that part, general itching
" over the whole of his body, and occasional pains
" of the sternum and tibæ."—The subsequent event and treatment of the other case, are detailed at full length; and, most undoubtedly, the chief benefit arose from the persevering "use of mercury only."

P. 240—246, Dr. Beddoes gives an account of the progress of a very distressing syphilitic case, from the patient's birth to a state of manhood, in which mercury had often relieved, but not eradicated, the symptoms; and in which the nitrous acid likewise proved "distinctly palliative." The oxygenated muriate of potash did not, in this instance, produce similar good effects. Upon the whole, nothing decisive can be inferred from this statement.

Appendix, No. I, p. 247, contains a narrative of many venereal cases, said to have been cured by American antisyphilitic vegetables. This subject is highly interesting, but does not serve to illustrate the present enquiry.

In Appendix No. II, p. 250, are three cases by Dr. RAMSAY, of Newcastle upon Tyne. The first was a deep chancre, cured by the internal use of nitrous acid. The second, is an history of confirmed lues; which demonstrates the inefficacy of the acid, after taking from two to three drams of it daily, for nearly two months, "no symptom being mitigated" during that period. The next case is likewise unfavourable to the new plan of cure; although the treatment appears not to have been satisfactory.

Appendix, No. III, p. 252. A case of secondary venereal sores, benefited by a two months course of the acid; but the cure was ultimately effected by *Calomel* alone.

Appendix, No. IV, p. 254. Mr. Hammick informs Dr. Beddoes, in a letter dated Oct. 31, 1798, that his late experience with the acid afforded still
fur-

further encouragement. "I beg leave," says he "to state
" generally, that, since I had the honour of writing
" to you in March last, we have given the nitrous
" acid in a great variety of cases, both with primary
" and secondary symptoms of the lues venerea, to
" a greater number of which cases mercury had been
" unsuccessfully given on board their respective
" ships, previous to their admission into this hos-
" pital. The advantages derived from its exhi-
" bition have been such as to give us sincere plea-
" sure, and induce us to persevere in its continu-
" ance, *though not perhaps to such an unlimited extent*
" *as when we first entered on its use*, which I believe
" has been invariably found to be the case with all
" new medicines; for time and experience, the
" surest of all guides, have now enabled us nearly
" to say, at first seeing our patient, where this me-
" dicine will, and where it will not, effect a cure;
" and, from the observations which we have daily
" made, we have not the least hesitation in de-
" claring it boldly, as our opinion, *that this medicine*
" *will stand the test of unprejudiced exhibition, and*
" *will continue to be given with permanent success to*
" *the greater number of venereal cases that occur*," (I
presume Mr. H. only speaks of the cases which oc-

cur in his own practice), "notwithstanding the
" opposition and prejudice that have been prema-
" turely raised against it."

Appendix, No. V, p. 255, contains a narration in favour of the new remedy exhibited to a patient supposed to be labouring under syphilitic eruptions. "In about five weeks, from the time of his com-
" mencing to take the nitric acid, he was perfectly
" cured." The space of two months had elapsed since the medical practitioner saw him; and, he then was reported to be in perfect health.

Appendix, No. VI, p. 257. A case in which the mother seems to have infected her child before birth; from HUFELAND'S Journal of Practical Medicine. A similar fact, translated from Swediaur's *Traité complet des Maladies Syphilitiques*, is likewise brought forward in Appendix XI, p. 274.

Appendix, No. VII, p. 261. Dr. CARRICK in a letter, dated Dec. 17, 1798, communicates the result of the cases he had transmitted to Dr. Beddoes about twelve months ago. The cure, he says, was permanent in all, except the second. (see page 141.)

" On

“ On the 24th of September last, this patient again
“ applied to me. I discovered in the throat two small
“ callous ulcers, which the patient supposed might
“ have subsisted about six weeks.—The possibility
“ of a fresh infection was positively denied. I or-
“ dered the nitrous acid, in the quantity of ʒiss in
“ the day. After one week, no improvement had
“ taken place. The difficulty in swallowing, and
“ pains in the head, had rather increased. The
“ dose was augmented to two drachms in the day,
“ with a grain of opium at bed time. At the end
“ of the second week, the ulcers were considerably
“ enlarged—deglutition extremely difficult—the
“ pain in the temples and right ear intolerable—
“ speech hardly articulate from the soreness of
“ the throat and fauces. A profuse ptyalism had
“ taken place, the only instance of it I have met
“ with from the acid; but without any of the fetor
“ and excoriation attendant on ptyalism from mer-
“ cury. As the disease was evidently gaining
“ ground, and even appeared to be aggravated by
“ the acid, I thought it unjustifiable to persist.
“ Mercury in moderate doses, was administered,
“ and in twelve days every symptom of the disorder
“ had disappeared.

“ The failure of the acid on this occasion is the
“ more remarkable, as the symptoms yielded to it
“ readily, when formerly administered. May not
“ this be accounted, for upon the supposition of a
“ quantity of mercury still remaining in the system
“ at the time of its first exhibition?

“ As some cases are recorded of gonorrhœa, sup-
“ posed to have been cured by nitrous acid, I take
“ the opportunity of submitting the following, in
“ which very opposite effects were experienced from
“ it. In February last, Mr. A. contracted a gonor-
“ rhœa and chancre on the prepuce, both of which
“ yielded in the course of a few days to astringent
“ injections and local escharotics. Upon mention-
“ ing the antisyphilitic properties of nitrous acid,
“ he became desirous of trying it, being averse to
“ mercury, as his health had suffered greatly from a
“ recent course of that remedy—indeed from the
“ great irritability of his bowels and salivary glands,
“ it was extremely difficult to administer it in any
“ tolerable quantity, and he was still apprehensive that
“ the former disorder was not entirely subdued.

“ The acid was ordered in the dose of ʒifs in the
“ day.

“ day. The good effects on his general health were
“ immediate ; but in less than a week, his gonorrhœa
“ and ardor urinæ, which had totally disappeared,
“ were as bad as ever, which obliged him to desist.
“ I advised him to resume it when the gonorrhœa
“ should have subsided ; and accordingly in about
“ twelve days he began again with one drachm a day,
“ but with precisely the same effect in reproducing
“ the complaint. About this time his attention was
“ withdrawn from this disorder by a fever of three
“ weeks continuance, during which the gonorrhœa
“ had again entirely subsided. The acid was now
“ ordered a third time, in the dose of a drachm, with
“ mucilage of gum arabic ; and a third time found
“ to be equally friendly to his general health, and
“ equally efficacious in reproducing the ardor urinæ
“ and gonorrhœa, notwithstanding so long an interval.”

Appendix, No. VIII, p. 263. A case is related by Mr. SYMES, of Bridgewater, Oct. 15, 1798 ; in which a mercurial course, of more than three weeks continuance, failed to remove primary symptoms, and was succeeded by nocturnal pains and an ulcer in the throat. On the 4th of February, 1798, a dram and half of the nitrous acid, sweetened with three ounces

ounces of syrup, and diluted with water, was directed to be administered daily. "The ulcers soon began to heal, the swelling subsided, the patient recovered his strength, and by the 8th of March all medicines were discontinued, and he appeared perfectly cured: He has had no return of his complaints since, and is now perfectly well."

Appendix, No. IX. p. 264. A case of supposed secondary venereal symptoms, cured by the nitrous acid alone. Mr. SANDFORD, who relates that case, does not hesitate to call those complaints "assuredly syphilitic," which I should denominate extremely equivocal, or not venereal.

We at length approach toward the concluding pages of Dr. Beddoes's valuable collection: (for valuable it certainly is, on account of the variety and respectability of the testimonies brought forward:) It must, however, be greatly regretted that this volume is every where soiled and disgraced with the scum of a fermenting spirit. Dr. Beddoes shews strong symptoms of displeasure, at not having been the only channel through which the facts on this subject are communicated to the world: He cannot

not allow that any other person beside himself, should participate in the honour of canvassing this important question *upon pure motives*: He even suspects (or would make the world believe so) that “Surgical authors and surgical practitioners fear lest their own consequence should be diminished, by the introduction of remedies, so much less hazardous, and of more easy management than mercury;” *i. e.* he thinks the old plan of cure is defended by SURGEONS because their interest is now at stake. He exclaims bitterly against different Reviewers, who have had the audacity to commend the former part of a certain Essay, and to speak in civil terms of its author.

I pity the case of a learned and judicious physician, who can work up his imagination to believe that I am in habits of intimacy with those “PROFESSED CRITICS” who have condescended to notice me with approbation.—He says, p. 268, “The eulogists of the author—those who vouch for his qualifications—and who, it may be, are of his *private acquaintance*—snatch at every occasion of propagating his opinions, almost making it a crime to think differently.”—How “irresistible,”

“ ble,” as Dr. Beddoes suggests, p. 191, must the “ reasons” have been which impelled him to censure my Essay!! “ Commendations which cannot fail to have weight with a certain portion of the public: These demonstrate its effects on professed critics; men, no doubt,” (although the sagacious writer presumes to doubt) “ of extensive information, and not to be suspected of rashness, inattention, favour, or malice—much less of cabal or collusion, which in such a question, would be villany of a dye little less deep than assassination.”

It appears to me not very improbable that Dr. Beddoes owes some of the “ PROFESSED CRITICS” an old grudge, and avails himself of this fine opportunity to evince his own superior “ niceness of discrimination;” for it surely cannot be of much importance to the world, whether or not he succeed in disproving the Essayist’s “ *known character for industry, ability, and integrity.*”—I have now made more work for the exercise of his talent in traducing “ surgical authors and surgical practitioners,” by having accumulated facts not very favourable to the pneumatic system.

But

But it is time to bid the zealous editor farewell : I have not the smallest intention of making this pamphlet a polemical treatise, nor of entering into a personal controversy with the Philo-acidi. The public will determine from naked facts alone, and not from the warmth of opponents, where the truth lies : For my own part, as I have no system of opinions to defend, I have not the least anxiety concerning the issue of this discussion. Magna est veritas, & prævalebit.

I shall conclude this chapter with an extract from a paltry review of Dr. Beddoes's publication, the well known author of which (*g*) has taken a conspicuous part on this occasion.

“ The second division of Dr. Beddoes's Collection, contains *Observations on the cases published*

(*g*) In justice to Dr. BRADLEY, who is reputed to have “ the general superintendance of the Medical and Physical Journal,” I think it right to mention that he entirely disavows having written, or even seen, the article here alluded to; and indeed, the style and matter of it are totally alien to his habits and judgement.

“lished by Mr. BLAIR, in a pamphlet, intituled
“*Essays on the Venereal Disease, and its concomitant*
“*Affections, illustrated by a Variety of Cases. Essay I.*
“*Part I. &c.*—“In this section we find some
“severe strictures, 1. on the ‘twenty-three ex-
“periments with the acid of nitre, the citric acid,
“and the oxygenated muriate of potash, in pri-
“mary symptoms; 2. on twenty-six cases of con-
“firmed syphilis, wherein the acid of nitre was
“exhibited; and, 3. on eleven trials with the oxy-
“genated muriate of potash, in advanced stages
“of the lues venerea.’ In all of these, the au-
“thor’s decided opposition to the new remedies,
“and his invincible predilection for *vetus amicus*
“mercury is so very conspicuous, that his conduct,
“on these occasions, requires no further comment
“or notice from us. In the third and last division
“of this work, Dr. Beddoes furnishes us with his
“own ‘*Remarks on various Questions that have arisen*
“*during the Investigation of the antisyphilitic Virtues*
“*of the Nitrous Acid.*’ These remarks are pre-
“faced with extracts from the BRITISH CRITIC,
“and the MEDICAL REVIEW, relative to the
“above mentioned *Essay* of Mr. Blair’s, and of
“which we shall only say, they are in one strain,
and

“ *and perfectly in character!*—As we have already
“ declined entering into the controversy, relative
“ to the real or pretended effects of the nitric acid,
“ we shall only add here, *en passant*, that in the
“ testimonies adduced by Dr. Beddoes, there is
“ such a mass of evidence in favour of this sub-
“ stance, *as an excellent substitute for mercury*, in
“ almost every stage of lues (if the constitution of
“ the patient, and other collateral circumstances
“ be properly attended to) that Dr. Beddoes, as
“ standing on higher ground, may triumphantly
“ and successfully direct the shafts of criticism,
“ and pointed satire, against his *feeble antagonist*.
“ He concludes this respectable ‘Collection’, with
“ eleven additional documents, in an appendix,
“ which, in our opinion, *are sufficient to remove*
“ *every remaining doubt, with respect to the unfounded*
“ *suspensions, and illiberal aspersions thrown on the*
“ *subject of the present inquiry, by his invidious op-*
“ *ponents.*” Med. and Phys. Journal, Vol. I. N^o. I.
p.p. 101, 102.

The discerning reader will be able to appreciate this curious morsel of criticism, without any comment of mine.

CHAPTER IV.

Communications from several other Practitioners, including a farther Detail of M. Alyon's Experience.

SECTION the First. *Letters from Mr. Macartney, Mr. William Wadd, and Mr. Wickham.*

I. *Another Communication from Mr. Macartney.*

Millman-Street, Bedford-Row,

Feb. 6, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT may be recollected, that when considering the conclusions authorised by the cases which I communicated to you last summer, it was found that the greater number of those cases went only to prove the temporary advantage derived from the new remedies; and therefore might have been reckoned, as far as respects this circumstance, concluded; whilst the 2nd, 11th, 12th, and 13th cases, in appearing to indicate the competency of the nitrous acid to effect a radical cure, required my further attention; the result of which, it seems proper you should be acquainted with.

ALDRIDGE,

ALDRIDGE, the subject of the 2nd case, returned from sea, in the month of December last : I did not see him, but he desired I might be informed that he had enjoyed the most perfect health, during the whole of his absence; which, with the time previously stated for his remaining well, forms a period of about eighteen months. Here then, time enough seems elapsed to pronounce him safe from any future appearance of the disease; but many such cases must be recorded, before it can be positively asserted that the security of the patient has been owing to the remedy employed.

MATTHEWS, to whom the 11th case relates, had, during last summer, an eruptive complaint, which she describes as resembling that for which the nitrous acid was employed; but it most probably was not venereal, as it continued long, occasionally varied much in degree and situation, and finally disappeared without any peculiar treatment: even admitting, however, this affection to have been venereal, it could not be supposed a recurrence of her former complaint. She asserts that she continues free from any of the latest appearances of syphilis, although it is now nearly fifteen months since her skin was first affected: an

exemption from the disease so long as this, affords a high degree of probability that it is entirely eradicated; but does not, in my mind, give a certainty that she may not yet have affections of the bones.

SLOAN, whose progress seemed to encourage the opinion of the nitrous acid having more than common efficacy in nodes, was attacked by palsy, with which he had been long threatened, and died a few weeks after the date of the last account inserted in his case; what, therefore, might have been the event in this instance, must always remain in obscurity.

WINGROVE, the object of the 13th case, I have not seen lately; but I have received repeated information, through indirect channels, that the node continues in the same harmless indolent state I have formerly described; a circumstance, perhaps, which should confirm the conjecture I ventured to throw out, of its venereal character (if ever it had such) being long since lost.

I am aware that many may be inclined to think, I have not allowed all the force to these cases, they possess; that my indecision is rather wilful, than necessary;

necessary ; but it will be found more useful in all experimental investigations, to suggest probable doubts, than precipitately to adopt the more obvious conclusion : Admitting however the most favourable inferences to be drawn from the preceding cases, still they, and all others, must be considered only, as so much of the great mass of evidence upon record ; and, therefore, whatever may be the hopes or conjectures suggested by the experience of particular individuals, our decision should depend upon the public opinion, which cannot, from many circumstances, yet be final with respect to the radical cure. It appears to me, that the new remedies have been so commonly and frequently tried, that the *whole* of their efficacy must, in due time, be ascertained, without having resource to further experiment upon the subject : From entertaining this opinion, my recent experience has been very limited ; it only amounts to three cases, where nitrous acid was employed, to gain a truce with the disease, and improve the health, under circumstances where mercury was inadmissible. As the remedy was only used to procure those effects, which general report has allowed to be peculiarly its own, the particulars of the cases were not noted : I shall only, therefore, give the
outlines

outlines of one case, which the most strikingly illustrates the utility of the new remedies, when administered with this temporary intention.

D. M. when I saw him in the month of July last, had an extensive ulceration of the throat, sufficiently characterized to be pronounced venereal; he had previously used mercury freely, for a great length of time, and was, in consequence, reduced to such an extreme degree of debility, and emaciation, that his death was daily expected. The mercury appeared to have been at all times unequal to subdue the disease; but more lately, whether from the state of constitution, or some other cause, it was incapable of producing the least good effect. The nitrous acid was prescribed, beginning (on account of the patient's weakness) with forty drops in the day, and gradually encreasing the quantity to seventy. In five days, no sore was evident in the throat, and his health remarkably benefited. The acid agreeing with him in every respect, it was continued for some weeks, when his strength was so much restored, that he was able to follow his usual occupation; since which time, I have heard no more of him.

In the two other cases I have spoken of, the remedy was equally, though less rapidly, efficacious: one was a primary affection, in which the gentleman would not consent to use mercury; the other was one of those untractable affections of the nose, accompanied with carious bone: in the latter, the acid disagreed with the bowels, for which it was relinquished, before the patient entirely recovered; but its effects were so remarkable, during the time it was employed, that he plainly owed his life to the interposition of this mode of treatment.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*To Mr. Blair,
Great Russel-Street.*

JAMES MACARTNEY.

II. *Two Letters from Mr. Wadd, junior.*

SIR,

The obtaining a new medicine for the cure of syphilis, would be a valuable acquisition to the healing art, that has to boast so few specifics; but whether the nitrous acid will rank amongst them, is at present doubtful, notwithstanding the firm assertions of very respectable practitioners. My father
early

early tried its efficacy by moderate doses, without encouragement: Indeed, his observation was, that it required little short of military discipline, to enforce its being taken in the full quantity directed.

Since your laudable enquiries, we have pursued a bolder line; and have to say, that in three cases, one of which you have seen, not the least benefit accrued after the first week or nine days; at which time the sores began to spread: One of these patients took daily, *three drams* of the acid, the other only *two*, for a month; when the ravages the disease was making compelled us to have recourse to the old remedy, mercury, which soon mitigated the symptoms. We have been, during the last three weeks, trying a dram and a half of the acid per diem, in a case of Phagedæna, which may [be worthy of notice hereafter, and in the manner that has been so often spoken of. It did good at first, and several ulcers healed at the end of a week; but at that period so much new mischief broke forth, as to make us despair of further relief: Indeed it had equal merit, in this case, with mercury, and every other medicine that had been used, under the direction of various of the most skilful men in the profession.

I have

I have also had an opportunity of seeing it given, in a large public hospital, where it would have been persevered in, had the effects answered expectation : But, I wish you to consider this as a communication of what has occurred in my own knowledge ; not remarking on the success of others.

The subject is fairly at issue, and it cannot be long before it will be more positively decided. I shall take every opportunity to satisfy my mind further upon it, and shall readily transmit any thing worthy your future notice.

I am, SIR,

With much respect, your's, &c.

Basinghall-Street,
February 11th, 1799.

WILLIAM WADD.

III. *Second Letter from Mr. W. Wadd.*

SIR,

In a former letter, on the effects of nitrous acid, I promised a further communication ; since which time I have availed myself of frequent opportunities of giving it, and have selected the following cases for your perusal :

r f

JOHNATHAN

JOHNATHAN GREENSTREET applied to me, January 6th last, with nodes on his forehead, and eruption on his skin. Jan. 7. He began the nitrous acid, one dram per diem, and increased the dose gradually to two drams and a half, which he took regularly, without any visible alteration, till the 27th; when he lost his appetite, was feverish, and complained of great pain in his head, which, with every other symptom, increased.—30th. His fever having left him, he commenced mercurial frictions.—February 14. His gums were affected; eruption nearly well.—27. Mouth very sore; omitted the ointment; nodes better; eruption well.—March 2. Directed the ointment to be used every second night.—21st. His mouth continued sore; the venereal complaints perfectly well.

I have other cases which, from parity of circumstances, would be tedious to relate. There is one, however, a patient in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the care of Mr. EARLE, (with whose permission I mention it) deserving notice.

ANNE MURPHY was admitted into the hospital, having chancres and bubo: She was salivated, and
got

got well; but in a few weeks after, she returned with an eruption and ulceration of the throat. The nitrous acid was given, one dram per diem, for ten days; it then disagreed with her stomach, and was discontinued, the ulceration of the throat being in the same state as on her admission into the house. In three or four days the acid was repeated as before; but her complaints becoming worse, fresh spots appearing, with great pain in her bones, mercurial frictions were ordered. The third day, the salivary glands were so much affected, as to make it necessary to withhold any further use of the ointment; and I cannot help observing, that it became the principal cause of great suffering to her, the original disease being completely subdued. Whether the distress experienced by this woman, can be attributed to any predisposition to the action of mercury excited by the acid, I do not pretend to determine; but, certain it is, this effect often happens; and I particularly witnessed it in a case much similar to the last, of a young woman, who for many weeks did not recover from a salivation produced by three times anointing. This circumstance may render the acid beneficial in constitutions not susceptible of mercurial action.

I believe the acid, at times, may be a useful adjunct; but given by itself, as far as my little experience enables me to judge, *it does not cure syphilis.*

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Basinghall-Street,
Sept. 22d, 1799.

WILLIAM WADD.

IV. *A Letter from Mr. Wickham, Surgeon of the
Winchester Hospital.*

Winchester, April 3, 1799.

SIR,

Your letter and publication which I received by Dr. WILSON, I feel myself much obliged by; and should be happy to give you the result of my trials of the nitrous acid, had they been conducted with that accuracy, which I think they ought for the public eye: however, I thought them at the time sufficiently decisive to induce me to make no farther trial of it; I have, therefore, for these last twelve months entirely thrown it aside. The cases I took for my experiments, were the best marked venereal cases, of both primary and secondary symptoms.

symptoms. I gave one dram of the nitrous acid, encreasing it to two drams daily, to five or six patients, who laboured under chancres, buboes, sore throats, and eruptions, without any good effect whatsoever. I had one patient who certainly appeared to me benefited, and, could I have kept him in the hospital, should have been able to have given a fair statement of it; but from his irregularity he was dismissed. This case I will more particularly relate, as it was the *only one* I observed the symptoms the least checked in, or at a stand. He was admitted, under my care, with a chancre upon the glans, and two buboes of the size of a walnut, in which state he had been about three or four weeks, without doing any thing for it. I ordered him one dram of the nitrous acid diluted with water, and corrected by sugar, daily; this was encreased to two drams, which he continued for three weeks, occasionally taking opium to alleviate the pain in his stomach and bowels, which the acid had occasioned; his pulse were generally quickened, and his tongue white. During the three weeks, the chancre was completely healed; one of the buboes proceeded to suppuration, but it was so trifling, that I believe not a teaspoonfull of matter was discharged at its opening, which was
effected

effected by nature, and it immediately healed; the other remained stationary. He continued in the hospital about three weeks without taking any medicine, (as he threw them away, which was the reason he was dismissed) but neither the chancre nor bubo returned or encreased.

Though the symptoms in this case were not all removed (as the indurations continued) after taking the acid three weeks, they did not encrease; but again, it may be said, that though he continued in the house near three weeks longer, during which time he threw away his medicines, they did not encrease. The symptoms in the other cases were so clearly encreasing, after using it ten days or a fortnight, that I was obliged to have recourse to mercury. I tried the acid in one case, (which was a patient that did not belong to me,) as a tonic, where mercury had been long used without any benefit; but even in this patient I did not perceive its good effects. If it would be any farther satisfaction to you, I will make other trials whenever opportunity offer; but, as to myself, I am sufficiently convinced, it is not a remedy we ought in all cases to try.

I remain, &c.

W. N. WICKHAM.

SECTION the Second. *Cases and observations, by Monsieur Alyon, of Paris, abridged from his "Essai sur les Propriétés Médicinales de l'Oxigène, et sur l'Application de ce Principe dans les Maladies vénériennes, psoriques, et dartreuses."*

The author of this publication, avows his design of subverting the doctrines, prejudices, errors, and practice of his predecessors. "In a word," says he, "I aim to banish mercury from the treatment of syphilitic diseases." M. Alyon was the first practitioner in France who employed the oxygenated remedies for this purpose, and even made a considerable number of trials before he had heard of Mr. Scott's success in the East Indies. The work before me, is written in a style of unusual confidence and self-approbation. I extract, for the reader's perusal, such of the observations and cases as appear to be most interesting: But it will presently be seen that what the author calls "*des faits irrécusables*," "*des expériences décisives*," are often frivolous and unsatisfactory.

The first sections explain what is meant by oxygen, in its several forms; and treat of its chymical action

tion during respiration, or while circulating in the body. We then come to the principal part of the Essay, (which was read at the Society of Medicine, in Paris, on the 7th Messidor, 5th year) wherein the author affirms, that all mercurial preparations owe their efficacy to the oxygen they contain. "To
" find, according to this well established modern
" idea, a powerful antivenereal, an active stimulant
" proper to change the state of the system, it is
" only necessary to take a substance containing
" much oxygen, and which readily parts with it to
" animal matter." After various experiments, M. Alyon was enabled to form an ointment, impregnated with the greatest possible quantity of oxygen, which, he says, produced the same effects as mercury. The preparation of this " OXYGENATED
" LARD," is as follows:

Take two parts of pure nitric acid, (32°), and sixteen parts of recent hogs lard: melt the lard in a glazed vessel, then add the acid; and, when the composition has boiled, remove it from the fire to cool. This operation entirely decomposes the acid, the oxygen combining with the lard, and the azot escaping. Two ounces of fat, melted with two drams

of the acid, encreased one dram in weight, and gave out its azotic gas in a proper apparatus. The ointment, well prepared, neither resembles the unguentum citrinum without mercury, nor rancid lard; as may be easily proved by analysis. It has no taste; is indissoluble in water, neither yielding sebacic nor nitric acid by washing; it is of a yellowish white colour; its consistence is between that of suet and virgin wax; it melts without alteration; and surprisingly facilitates the oxydation of metals: mercury triturated with it, only a few minutes, forms the Neapolitan ointment. If the strength of the acid employed be not known; if we add too much of it, the excess will remain in the lard unconcreted, and its use will irritate the skin: if the acid be feeble, the proportion of the oxygen will be deficient, and the remedy less active. The medicinal properties of this ointment will depend on the purity of the acid, the quantity of the lard, and the nicety of their manipulation. M. Alyon prepares two kinds: a weaker ointment for the face, in pimples or tetters; and a stronger, for herpetic or venereal ulcerations.

In reciting the medicinal properties of this oxy-

e g

generated

generated ointment, M. Alyon particularly insists on its surprising efficacy against the itch, and especially the moist scabby species of the disease. Herpetic ulcerations, watery tetter, and erysipelas, hitherto regarded as very obstinate complaints, yield, he says, in a few weeks, on applying this ointment: The crustaceous, ulcerated, and scaly sort of tetter, is most easily cured. It is, besides, very efficacious in resolving incipient tumours of the lymphatic glands: it soon changes the appearance of venereal sores, and alleviates the pain of cancerous ulcers: the author has also employed it twice in the *tinea capitis*, with the greatest success.

Some general observations next occur on the composition and properties of the NITRIC ACID. The author remarks, that it is highly necessary to obtain it perfectly pure from any admixture of the muriatic and sulphuric acid, as well as from the nitrous gas, both for the preparation of his oxygenated ointment, and for internal use. Diluted with water, he has administered it to more than a hundred and fifty patients, during the space of eight months.

“ In primitive venereal symptoms, where it is
“ sufficient

“ sufficient to restore gradually the lost tone of the
“ system, and accelerate the circulation of the fluids,
“ it may be taken in the dose of half a drachm
“ diluted with a pint of common water.” It has
been observed, however, to act more speedily and
certainly in old venereal complaints, by whatever
symptoms they may be characterized. The use of
this acid produces a kind of salivation, more or less
abundant; but which is never excessive, and does
not resemble a mercurial ptyalism. “ I learn,”
adds the author, “ from Dr. Swediaur, that the
“ daily exhibition of fifty grains of suroxygenated
“ muriate of potash, has produced a most violent
“ salivation, in all respects like what is occasioned
“ by mercury; with ulcerations of the gums, which
“ were the effect of the oxygen liberated from this
“ salt, in like manner as it happens from the oxygen
“ detached from the metal itself.” A slight ptya-
lism is also sometimes perceived, when the oxy-
genated ointment has been rubbed into the glands of
the neck.

Another remarkable property attributed to the
acid, by M. Alyon, is that of its “ *developing the*
action of the morbid matter;” so as to discover

symptoms which did not previously exist, and to bring the hidden virus to light. He affirms that he has frequently verified this fact, in cases where a lurking venereal poison was suspected.

I shall now lay before the reader an abridged account of all the cases detailed in this volume; from which he will be able to form an estimate of their real value, and the degree of weight they are entitled to in the present controversy.

CASE I. A friend of M. Alyon had been long afflicted with a bad herpetic eruption on different parts of his body, which resisted various medicines during a period of three years. This disorder was supposed to be complicated with a venereal taint when he undertook the cure. The parts affected were well anointed with the *pomade oxigénée*: in a few days the pain was alleviated; the scabs gradually fell off; and, in a fortnight, the ulcerated parts healed. The patient was afterwards purged repeatedly, and put on the use of the diluted nitric acid for a month. Seven months after this period, he remained well.

CASE II. A varicose ulcer on the leg, which
had

had for six months resisted different kinds of ointment applied to it, was cured by the oxygenated pomatum in only four times dressing.

CASE III. Another tettery affection, on the hand of M. Alyon's colleague, was removed by this application in three days.

CASE IV. A young man had so bad a phymosis as to threaten mortification of the prepuce. M. Alyon ordered the part to be fomented with warm water, from day to day, till the inflammation subsided, and he could discern the state of the glans. On the corona glandis, four chancres were observable, two of which were very deep: the internal surface of the prepuce was also beset with a dozen chancres. They were immediately touched with a solution of sur-oxygenated muriate of potash. Next day they were much amended, and their white margin had disappeared. By persisting in the use of this application, seven or eight of the sores were healed in five days. Those that remained were then covered with fine linen, spread with the oxygenated ointment, which had entirely cured them on the fifteenth day. During all the above treatment,

this

this patient took a pint of the nitric acid drink daily ; and it was continued for a fortnight afterwards, to prevent ill consequences from the absorption of the syphilitic virus. He enjoyed perfect health seven months subsequent to the period of his cure.

CASE V. A young girl was cured of a whitlow on her finger, by the application of the oxygenated ointment.

CASE VI. In twelve days a very extensive tettery affection of the leg, with purulent scabs, was cured by the same ointment.

CASE VII. Citizen C——, who had been seven years troubled with a pustulous itch all over his body, that had been treated in vain with mercurial friction and Wanvetin's remedy, besides other means, applied to M. Alyon in the beginning of the month Messidor, fifth year, (June 1797.) He was supposed, by this gentleman, to have a syphilitic taint mixed with the scabs ; on which account he ordered a dram of nitric acid diluted, to be taken daily, the warm bath to be used every morning, and friction with an ounce of the oxygenated ointment every night.

night. The violent itching which used to disturb the patient's rest, became much easier in three days : On the eleventh day, he was purged, and intermitted the use of his other remedies : On the twelfth, he resumed the acid, the bathing, and the friction : On the fifteenth, he discovered three small chancres on the glans ; which were touched every morning with the solution of suroxygenated muriate of potash, and dressed with the oxygenated pomatum. The patient was again purged on the twenty-first day ; and, on the twenty-fifth, his chancres were healed. The itch was now almost extinguished. On the eight and twentieth day, there appeared two boils on his abdomen. The patient was purged once more on the thirty-first day, and then discharged well. Six months and a half afterwards, he still remained in health.

CASE VIII. Citizen R——, with an inflammatory swelling of the testicle, occasioned by a suppressed gonorrhœa, was ordered an anodyne emollient cataplasm, with a fomentation, &c. which renewed the discharge, and afforded relief : He was then directed to take the diluted acid drink. In thirty-six days the running ceased, and he was cured.

CASE IX. A woman was delivered of a child infected with the venereal virus, which died a few days after. In six weeks she had a lead-coloured complexion; she could not sleep, and walked with difficulty: her labia pudendi were also beset with chancres; her appetite failed; she had continual head-aches, and an abundant greenish discharge. The diluted nitric drink was given her frequently, and the parts affected were washed with warm water. On the eighteenth day she found her head-ach relieved, her appetite recovered, her sleep re-established, her strength recruited, and her complexion restored to its natural state. Two chancres only remained. The drink was continued till the thirtieth day, when the cure was complete; and the patient continued well five months after.

CASE X. Citizen D—— had a chancre at the basis of the glans, four lines in diameter. He was put on the use of the nitric lemonade, and the chancre was dressed daily with the oxygenated ointment, besides being touched with the solution of oxygenated muriate of potash. The ulcer became cicatrized in thirteen days. The acid drink was employed.

ployed twenty five days; and four months and a half afterwards, the patient remained well.

CASE XI. Citizen N——, in the month Vendémiaire, of the 6th year, applied to M. Alyon, with two chancres on the body of the penis, and two more on the glans, together with a gonorrhœa. The treatment was the same as in the last case. At the expiration of ten days, the two sores on the glans were healed: those on the penis continued, and one of them was foul as well as deep; it was therefore touched lightly with oxygenated muriate of antimony, which induced an healthy appearance, and cicatrized it in a few days. The acid was persisted in till the gonorrhœa ceased, which happened on the thirty-sixth day.

CASE XII. Citizen J—— had an ulcer in the throat, which incommoded him during the act of deglutition. He had employed mercurial friction thirty times, and taken Wanvetin's liquor twenty days, without any amendment. M. Alyon regarded this as a local affection, and touched it with his solution of oxygenated muriate of potash. After this operation had been repeated nine succes-

sive mornings, the ulcer entirely disappeared. This cure was effected in the month Messidor, of the 5th year; and no relapse had taken place when M. Alyon last saw him.

Citizen Boulay, Surgeon of the Military Hospital of Franciade, shewed the author a similar case, which had in like manner resisted mercurial frictions and sublimate. It was cured by applying the solution eleven days.

CASE XIII. Citizen P—— had suffered three years and a half from an ulcer on his upper lip, supposed to be contaminated with the herpetic and venereal virus. The lip was greatly tumefied, and the ulcer spreading on one side toward the ala nasi; it had also exhibited a circinomatous appearance, about the size of a small nut, during the last eight months. The patient had undergone three successive salivations, by the direction of Messieurs Dessault, Petit, and Mitié. M. Ducos and Swediaur, who had been consulted, considered it as a very desperate case. The *Rob de l'Affecteur* had failed, as well as mercury. Mr. Alyon having been called in consultation, deliberately weighed all the circumstances, and
declared

declared that it might be gradually cured. He directed a dram of nitric acid, diluted in a pint of water, to be taken daily: he touched the ulcer with the solution of oxygenated muriate of potash, and dressed it with his oxygenated pomatum; besides purging the patient every week. These means did not succeed: the ulcers extended farther, and were surrounded with numerous pimples, especially about the lip. The acid, however, was still persisted in; but every application to the ulcerated parts was discontinued, except some ointment which the patient thought facilitated the suppuration. On the twentieth day, the salivary glands being affected, and a slight ptyalism having supervened, M. Alyon left off the acid; and prescribed a cathartic, with emollient glysters, emulsions, and an anodyne julep. After twenty days, he again ordered the acid, which was continued three weeks more, and a cathartic interposed once a week. Hitherto the ulcers were not ameliorated: a layer of oxygenated muriate of antimony was therefore applied upon all their surface, which produced excessive pain for three days; but they then became easy. An healthy appearance now took place, and in another week one of the ulcers was cicatrized. There still remained an ul-

ceration at the commissure of the lips, on the right side, and the carcinoma was very voluminous internally. The oxygenated muriate of antimony was re-applied, by the patient himself: it produced the most happy effects; for, in twelve days after its application, the cancerous affection disappeared. Only a little tumefaction of the lip now remained. Mr. Alyon advised purgative pills to be taken occasionally, with a vegetable diet, which indeed had been followed during the whole of the treatment. Thus was this rebellious disorder subdued, after having long baffled the skill of so many practitioners; and "*the dartro-venereal humour*" could not have been subdued even then, (says the author,) without the caustical application.

CASE XIV. Citizen F.—— applied to M. Alyon with a large suppurating bubo in the left groin. The oxygenated pomatum was employed externally, and the nitric acid internally. On the eighth day, the bubo was extremely painful; an emollient poultice was therefore advised: five days after, the part ruptured. The cataplasm was continued until the tumour subsided, and then the oxygenated pomatum was renewed, which healed the sore in eight days.

M. Alyon

M. Alyon exhibited a cathartic on the twentieth day, and continued the acid drink till the thirtieth. The health and appetite of the patient were recruited in a surprizing manner. After four months, he had experienced no relapse.

CASE XV. Citizen C—— had a chancre on the glans, with a gonorrhœa. The sore was dressed with oxygenated ointment, and the acid mixture was administered internally. An opiate pill was also given at night, as occasion required. The chancre healed by these means in ten days, and the gonorrhœa was cured in twenty-eight.

CASE XVI. Citizen B—— had two small warts on the glans, with a gonorrhœa. The acid was used as before, and silken ligatures were applied to the warts: they dropped off in five days. At the end of thirty-one days, the discharge not being quite gone, M. Alyon ordered fifteen drops of the tincture of Jamaica pepper in alcohol, mixed with an equal weight of sulphuric acid, to be taken every morning fasting, in a glass of water. Six days use of this tincture arrested the discharge.

CASE XVII. Citizen R—— had a gonorrhœa of three months duration; which was cured in twenty-eight days, by the daily use of a dram of nitric acid, diluted in a pint of water.

CASE XVIII. Citizen N—— had a farinaceous tetter in the perinœum, and a virulent gonorrhœa. The perinœum was rubbed with oxygenated ointment, and the acid drink was exhibited internally. The tetter disappeared in a week, and the gonorrhœa was suppressed in thirty-four days.

CASE XIX. A woman had an obstinate greenish discharge, which appeared very suspicious: M. Alyon ordered her the nitric lemonade. On the twelfth day her complexion was animated, and the discharge became paler. In a month she was completely cured.

CASE XX. Citizen L. M—— consulted the author for a tettery humour of a very rebellious kind, that had ulcerated his face in three places. A compress, covered with the oxygenated ointment, was applied every morning. Two other ulcerations occupied the perinœum and groin, which, from their malignity and pain, were suspected to be venereal.

The

The patient took a pint of nitric drink, containing a dram of the acid, every day. In a week, two of the ulcerations on the face were cicatrized; the other was touched lightly with oxygenated muriate of antimony, which induced a swelling at first, but healed it in eight days more. At the same time the sore in the groin got well; that in the perinæum required the antimonial caustic, and was cicatrized in another week. The acid was persisted in for thirty-six days, when the cure seemed decisive.

CASE XXI. Citizen S—— having a gonorrhœa of four months standing, for which he had taken three bottles of the *Rob de l'Affecteur*, was cured by the nitric drink in twenty days.

“*Note.* A gonorrhœa,” says M. Alyon, “is, of
“all venereal symptoms, the most frequent, and
“that which entails the greatest number of ill con-
“sequences, both on account of the imprudence
“of patients, and the inaccuracy of our notions re-
“specting this complaint. Peyrilhe had reason to
“affirm that gonorrhœa is still unknown; for if it
“were otherwise, its mode of cure would be uni-
“form, whereas every practitioner has his method
“of

“ of treatment, and no one can certainly tell what
“ will be the event. Almost all the world agrees
“ that gonorrhœa is a local affection, and yet most
“ practitioners have recourse to internal treatment.
“ The local treatment, which is very much em-
“ ployed in England, is almost wholly abandoned
“ in France. Of all the ptisans used in these cases,
“ I can affirm, from my own experience, that the
“ nitric lemonade is, that which I have seen suc-
“ ceed most readily and uniformly. Nevertheless,
“ some late experiments I have made, incline me
“ to believe that gonorrhœa may be radically cured,
“ in a few days, by local treatment. I can pro-
“ duce four facts in support of this opinion, which
“ appear to me decisive. The means I employ
“ for men are derived from the class of sedatives.
“ Their effects have appeared to be prompt, and
“ without those inconveniences that ensue from
“ acrid, astringent, or irritating injections, which
“ constantly repel the effect of the morbid matter,
“ (*qui rétroplussent constamment l'effet de la matière*
“ *morbifique.*) I have had occasion to treat two
“ women with local applications, who found them-
“ selves entirely cured in nine hours. I purpose
“ to make known, in a work I have in hand, the
“ doses

“ doses and manner of employing these local remedies, which, properly administered, seem to me preferable to all other modes of destroying, surely and expeditiously, the irritating effect of the morbid matter. This local mode of treatment for gonorrhœa in both sexes, such as I have conceived and shall speedily divulge, has not been mentioned in any publication whatever.”

CASES XXII. XXIII. Two persons were cured (one in twelve days, the other in six) of a very inveterate itch, by rubbing in an ounce of the oxygenated ointment every night.

CASE XXIV. A child was cured of the moist itch and the *tinea capitis* in six days, by employing the same ointment.

CASE XXV. Citizen C—— had warts almost all over his glans and prepuce, besides a gonorrhœa. He took the nitric acid daily, and for four evenings a grain of the extract of opium. Most of the warts were tied with silk, and the rest were touched with oxygenated muriate of antimony, or sprinkled with Savine Powder. The gonorrhœa ceased on the

twentieth day; about which time no external application was used, as the warts continued to be luxuriant. The acid was taken till the thirty-fifth day, when the warts insensibly diminished, and the patient seemed entirely well. He has remained in health four months.

CASE XXVI. Citizen N—— had two chancres, a bubo, and a gonorrhœa. M. Alyon prescribed one dram of the oxygenated pomatum to be rubbed on the bubo, a grain of opium to be taken in the evening, a pint of the nitric drink daily, and dressed the chancres with his oxygenated pomatum. The chancres healed in twelve days, but the inguinal gland was then larger; the gonorrhœa ceased on the thirty-fifth day, when the acid was discontinued. M. Alyon here informs us, that he has employed the same means with success in *thirty-six more venereal cases*, with symptoms of different kinds.

CASE LXIII. In fifteen days a young girl was cured of swelled glands in her neck, by rubbing them morning and evening with the oxygenated ointment.

CASE LXIV. One of M. Alyon's friends had
wandering

wandering pains in his joints, a node upon one of the true ribs, and a pricking sensation in the urethra. The nitric acid was given internally, and the node rubbed with oxygenated ointment. His pains were better in a fortnight. M. Alyon caused a solution of opium to be injected into the urethra, which removed the irritation in six days. The pains were entirely gone in thirty-six days, when the acid was left off.

CASE LXV. A soldier was admitted into the hospital of *Val-de-Grace*, on the 14th Floreal, of the 5th year, for several venereal ulcers upon the face. He had, eight years before, undergone a course of medicine, and had rubbed in mercury, which kept the sores in a healed state during the space of four years; but at the end of that period they broke out afresh, and the patient underwent another course of medicine. The ulcers, however, were so rebellious, that they could not be thoroughly subdued. Baths, sudorific drinks, mild cathartics, Van Swieten's Liquor, and the Syrup of Cuisinier, were employed. This treatment healed the ulcers for a while, but they broke out soon after. M. Barbier, who had the care of the patient, put him on the use of nitric acid diluted, two pints daily, and dressed the sores

with the oxygenated ointment. The cure was entirely effected, by these means, in about three months.

CASE LXVI. Dr. Lemoine exhibited the nitric acid, a dram daily, mixed with a pint of water, to a patient having a gonorrhœa and *ardor urinæ*. On the fourth day a phymosis supervened, which made considerable progress in twenty-four hours. The oxygenated lard was then rubbed over and within the prepuce. The phymosis yielded in three days; and the other symptoms gradually disappeared, by continuing the acid a month.

CASE LXVII. Another patient, having only an open bubo, was directed, by Dr. Lemoine, to apply the oxygenated pomatum to the part affected, and to drink the diluted nitric acid, as in the former case. He got well by these means in six weeks.

CASES LXVIII. LXIX. Two soldiers were deeply affected with the scurvy; having spongy gums, broad livid petechiæ, pains in their limbs, &c. They were both put on a vegetable diet, by order of M. Desgenet, and drank two pints of the diluted nitric acid daily. They were cured in three months.

M. Alyon

M. Alyon adds, that he has witnessed a similar cure at the Military Hospital of Franciade, under the care of Dr. Voisset.—*N. B.* These facts, of *Scurvy* being cured by nitric acid, do not agree with the experience of Dr. Browne. See p. 140, Part II. Chap. III. of this Essay.

CASE LXX. A person had a gonorrhœa, which a charlatan removed in eight days: one of his testicles swelled a fortnight afterwards. This complaint was relieved, however, by emollient applications, and the patient seemed well of the disease during the space of eight months. For several preceding years he had been afflicted with bleeding piles; which now were in a state of ulceration, and became gradually larger. The patient was greatly enfeebled by this running sore; and it spread at last so as to equal in extent of the palm of a man's hand. Mr. Boutin, under whose care he was, judged, from the characters of this ulceration, that it was tainted with the venereal virus. He also found a thickening of the periosteum on one of the tibiæ. M. BOUTIN put him on the use of the nitric lemonade, and dressed the sore with oxygenated ointment. At the end of three weeks, the tumefaction

of the periosteum was reduced; and on the thirty-fifth day the ulcer was cicatrized, except at the part from whence the hemorrhoids flowed, and which it was supposed would never be completely suppressed.

CASE LXXI. A young man who had an extensive chancre, having employed several means to no good purpose, applied to M. Boutin. After employing a bath twice, he had recourse to the acid drink, and rubbed in the oxygenated ointment. The chancre began to amend in eight days; it was three quarters cicatrized in ten more; and was perfectly healed on the twenty fourth. Mr. B. makes a whimsical remark here: 'The original large chancre, about eighteen days after using the acid, was surrounded with several little ones; "*which seems to prove,*" says he, "*that this remedy has the property of transferring the virus to the external parts.*"

CASES LXXII. LXXIII. M. MARC had occasion to employ the oxygenated pomatum in two instances, where it entirely succeeded. The first was a case of five chancres around the prepuce: the patient rubbed in half an ounce of the pomatum for two nights and mornings, and applied the same remedy

medy to the sores. He was cured in six days, and remained well a month after. The other was a case of itch, cured in twenty-four days.

M. ALYON tells us that, besides all the above patients, he has treated *thirty-two more* in the Military Hospital of Franciade, the majority of whom were affected with "very bad venereal complaints." The author cured twenty-seven of them with the oxygenated lard and nitric lemonade *only*. Such then is the result of this series of trials, by different practitioners, in France. M. Alyon next goes on to detail some of the experiments made in England: but says, that most of his own were made before he had heard of these; and that when his memoir was read to the Society of Medicine in Paris, June 1797, he had not the least knowledge of Mr. Scott's success at Bombay. After enumerating the trials made in the WOOLWICH HOSPITAL, he subjoins rather an humiliating reflection, by way of guarding his countrymen against the exaggerated accounts of British practitioners: "*J'ajouterai aussi qu'il est quelquefois prudent d'être en garde contre les observations de certains praticiens de la Grande-Bretagne, dont l'enthousiasme les fait souvent exagérer.*" Whether

or

or not this suggestion be well founded, I leave to my readers: but the following remark undoubtedly is, viz. that the majority of what are called venereal sores, are not difficult to cure; and that many of them are no proof of a venereal infection, "*que plusieurs même ne sont pas une preuve d'infection vénérienne.*" The author concludes his work with some speculations on the nature of the venereal poison, its action in the animal frame, and the *modus operandi* of mercurial preparations, &c. Upon the whole, however, I think no considerate Surgeon will feel disposed to exchange mercury for M. Alyon's remedies, in any case of genuine syphilis.

SECTION the Third. *Information on this Subject, from T. Fitzmaurice, Esq. Haslar Hospital; Dr. Trotter, Physician to the Fleet; several Practitioners, in North America; and from Mr. Vise, Mr. Scott, Mr. Addington, Mr. Kerrison, and Mr. Clutterbuck.*

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- I. *A Letter from T. Fitzmaurice, Esq. Surgeon of the Haslar Hospital, at Portsmouth.*

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 3d instant, I beg leave to acquaint you that I made no
trial

trial of the nitrous acid ; as I am always reluctant to give up an old approved medicine for a new one, however so much cryed up by modern theorists, until it has acquired substantial reputation by its well attested merit. It was used in this hospital by Messrs. Dods and Stephenson, two of my colleagues ; and I may venture to say, with indifferent success : for *in most of the cases, they were obliged to have recourse to the old method.* One of those who used the acid, came particularly under my observation for hæmoptysis, from which he narrowly escaped. So little indeed has it recommended itself, that it is now TOTALLY GIVEN UP by the gentlemen above mentioned.

You, Sir, have given it *a very fair trial*, and candidly stated the result of your experiments, as I have, with pleasure, read in your publication ; which, if I understand it right, is not of a tendency to induce surgeons to pursue the acid, in preference to the mercurial, method of cure.

I am, Sir, with great respect,

Your very humble Servant,

Haslar Hospital,

THOMAS FITZMAURICE.

October 6th, 1799.

P. S. It is now nearly four months since I saw

K K

JOHN

JOHN NOWLAND, your former patient, who told me he was quite recovered: he came to offer himself as a servant; but could not be received, as there was no vacancy.

II. *Farther Information from Dr. Trotter,
Physician to the Fleet.*

I have before (pp. 136—140,) enumerated several cases, which were communicated to Dr. Beddoes by the Physician of his Majesty's Fleet. At the time when that communication was transmitted to Dr. B. it appears that Dr. Trotter was sanguine in his hopes of success, from the exhibition of nitrous acid in syphilis; but a little farther experience has convinced him that "*the discovery which must immortalize*" "*Mr. Scott*" is not, in reality, of so much value as he formerly believed. After having given the same account of Dr. Browne's successful trials, and the other cases by Dr. Huggan and himself, which he had communicated to Dr. Beddoes, he now tells us (*in the second volume of Medicina Nautica, pp. 138—140*) that various relapses have occurred!

The poor woman in Portsmouth, who had taken the diluted acid about ten days, with considerable
benefit,

benefit, and of whom he “ prognosticated a favour-
“ able issue and a speedy cure,” (*Dr. Beddoes’ New
Reports, p. 24,*) in another week became rather
worse than before; the medicine also disagreed with
her, and Dr. T. was obliged to give it up entirely.
“ Some physicians and surgeons,” says he, “ con-
“ tinue to support the character of this medicine: for
“ my own part, what success I have seen attend it, I
“ am apt to think, *was very much owing to the pre-
“ vious exhibition of mercury.*—I do not find now,
“ among my medical acquaintance, many who are
“ prepossessed in favour of the nitrous acid: what
“ have been thought cures, have *generally broke out
“ afresh,* and of necessity the old remedy was re-
“ sorted to! Some of Mr. Hammick’s patients,
“ whose cases were published by Dr. Beddoes, have
“ again suffered a return of the disease: two or three
“ of this kind have been reported to me in the Fleet;
“ and they were such, where a fresh infection could
“ not be suspected. They all yielded to mercury in
“ the usual forms of prescription”!!!

I leave this candid and ingenuous confession of
Dr. Trotter to the reader’s own meditation. No
comment is wanting. Only let this *second* account

be compared with the *first*. How many of the gentlemen who have propped up the new system are to be reckoned among Dr. T.'s "medical acquaintance," I cannot tell; nor how "generally" the relapses have been, which he *now* so honestly announces. But it is very much to be feared that most of the vouchers for Mr. Scott's *immortal discovery* will, in the end, prove defective and invalid.

III. *The result of various and long continued Trials in North America.*

There can be no doubt entertained of Dr. Beddoes' willingness to bring forward every fact, either within his own knowledge, or authenticated by any of his correspondents, which may serve to recommend the new method of treatment in lues venerea. It therefore seems a little mysterious that, after having long ago announced the "*good success*" attending certain trials which had been made in America, he has not given a detail of those experiments, nor even so much as noticed them, in his last collection of cases.—See the Monthly Magazine, for March 1798, Vol. V. N^o xxix. p. 161; where he says, "I find by my correspondence in America, that
" they

“ they have been employing nitrous acid there
“ *with various, but, for the most part, with good suc-*
“ *cess.*” We are not told why this interesting sug-
gestion remains unsupported by future communica-
tions : but, from an extract of a letter, with which I
have been favoured, (See p. 78,) it appears that some
of Dr. Beddoes’ correspondents, after six months
experience, lost their former good opinion of the
acids ; “ these remedies were soon changed or mixed
“ with mercury, because the event did not answer
“ their expectations.”

We possess a farther clue to the *real* event of
numerous trials made in North America, by means
of another private letter, dated at New York, May
1798, which was sent to the Monthly Reviewers. (Ap-
pendix to the Monthly Review, p. 516, Vol. xxvi.
1798.) “ In our large hospital here, the physi-
“ cians can add NOTHING *in favour of the internal*
“ *use of nitric acid in syphilis,* AFTER LONG AND
“ VARIOUS TRIALS : like Mr. Bell, they are almost
“ persuaded any other acids will do as well. I sup-
“ pose, in certain cases, these will do better ; espe-
“ cially if of the palatable kind, derived from vege-
“ tables.” But this is not quite the whole of our in-
telligence :

telligence: for we may also venture to adduce the authority of Professor Mitchill, at New-York, on the same side of the question. In his letter to Dr. Trotter, (*Medic. Naut.* Vol. ii. p. 72,) he says, "I shall own myself mistaken if the boasted specific for syphilis; *i. e.* nitric acid, does not turn out to be an instance of deception, to the publishers of cases and to the public." It is presumed, that Dr. Mitchill did not make this remark without good reason.

IV. In conformity with my plan of collecting evidence from all quarters, I proceed to state some other facts, recorded in books which do not treat expressly upon this subject. At page 416 of Dr. Beddoes's "*Contributions to Physical and Medical Knowledge*," (Bristol, 1799, 8vo.) Mr. JOSEPH VISE, of Stilton, incidentally mentions that himself and one of his friends had seen a venereal case, in which "the nitrous acid did wonders:—both were secondary."

V. In the same publication, p. 429^f, is a note from Mr. SCOTT of Bombay, (Nov. 2, 1798.) of which the following is an extract: "Since I wrote you last, we have made a good many trials of
" the

“ the nitrous acid bath, which have confirmed the
“ hope that I expressed some time ago of its being
“ an useful remedy for some diseases. By being
“ applied to the surface of the body, I find that the
“ acid, as I supposed, is absorbed very plentifully
“ by the skin, and that it performs the same effects
“ in the system which arise from its internal use. I
“ have in many cases, immersed the whole surface
“ of the body below the chin for half an hour daily,
“ and with some people for twenty, or five and
“ twenty, days successively. I make the bath so
“ strong with acid as to irritate the skin to a certain
“ degree, on which perhaps its absorption depends.
“ In about a week it brings on, with many people,
“ a ptyalism and a soreness of the mouth and throat.
“ It affected me, and it has others, in still a shorter
“ time. These symptoms are accompanied or suc-
“ ceeded by an increased quickness of pulse. I
“ have seen it produce *as violent a salivation as ever*
“ *I saw from mercury*, but I think this is not at-
“ tended with the same kind of foetor of the breath.
“ By merely immersing the legs in the acid bath for
“ half an hour daily, I frequently see a ptyalism
“ come on and continue while the bath is continued.
“ Some people seem to be nearly insensible of these
“ effects,

“ effects in whatever way the acid be applied. The
“ acid bath, if managed with any kind of prudence,
“ is an extremely safe remedy. I have seen it do
“ great good in chronic hepatitis under a variety of
“ forms. I have found it of the greatest service
“ in asthma, and I have used it with advantage in
“ fever. *Like the acid internally, it has an antisy-*
“ *philitic power.* I have tried it in a number of
“ cases where mercury had entirely failed, and the
“ result of my experience *seems* to be, that I have
“ cured two or three people under those circum-
“ stances. In several instances I have seen no kind
“ of relief from it, but in a much greater number I
“ have found it like mercury keep away the pains,
“ &c. for a time, but they have returned again on
“ leaving it off. It is well deserving of the atten-
“ tion of practitioners; but my experience of it in
“ this disease, is for too short a time, and to too
“ small an extent to enable me to speak with the
“ precision that I desire. We have tried it too in
“ cases of recent syphilis for chancre and bubo.
“ Under such circumstances it seems to succeed
“ very well. It may be supposed that this success
“ arises from its internal action, and that a relapse
“ is to be feared. This remains to be determined.

“ Of

“ Of all the means that I have seen of getting rid
“ of those symptoms, this is the least injurious, the
“ most agreeable, and sometimes the speediest.
“ When it affects the mouth, I should hope that
“ the cure would be permanent: but allow me to
“ say again, that I do not pretend to determine
“ the point. Let the bath then in those cases be
“ employed with doubt and with prudence, but let
“ it not be rejected entirely; for if it should be
“ found to answer every intention, it will indeed be
“ a blessing to all mankind.”

VI. In a letter from Mr. ADDINGTON to Dr. Beddoes, p. 460 of the “ Contributions,” is the following remark: “ On the use of this acid in the
“ treatment of syphilis, I have only now to add to
“ my former testimony, that the disappointment I
“ then met with, have since prevented my relying
“ upon it *solely* for a cure; but that I have, as far
“ as I can judge, found it a very useful *auxiliary*.”

VII. In the seventh number of the “ London
“ Medical Review and Magazine,” p. 64, is an article
communicated by Mr. KERRISON to the Editors of
that useful publication: it is entitled, “ *A curious*

*“ case of syphilis, unsuccessfully treated with the nitrous
“ acid.”* The patient was a married lady, who,
very unexpectedly, and without any previous local
complaint, “ was attacked with soreness in the throat,
“ followed by ulceration of the fauces and uvula;
“ for which she was attended by a reputable physi-
“ cian in a sister kingdom, who, it seems, formed
“ an accurate judgment of her case, but, unfortu-
“ nately, had recourse to a system of cure totally
“ inadequate to arrest the progress of similar com-
“ plaints—the use of the nitrous acid in syrup, &c.
“ During the administration of this remedy, which
“ was continued for some weeks, the ulcers in-
“ creased to an alarming degree, so as to render
“ deglutition and articulation extremely difficult.
“ At this time it was considered expedient to visit
“ London, in order to be under the immediate care
“ of Dr. ROWLEY and myself; the journey was
“ therefore undertaken, and, on her arrival, the fol-
“ lowing appearances presented themselves: 1. Seve-
“ ral ulcers in the fauces, and a large one covering
“ the base of the uvula, the body of which had
“ fallen off during the journey, whilst under a course
“ of nitrous acid. 2. Several incipient ulcers in the
“ palate, exactly on the symphysis of the *ossa palati*.
“ 3. Pain

“ 3. Pain in the superior and interior part of the
“ nose, chiefly about the *ossa turbinata*. 4. Total
“ loss of smell. 5. Pain, with difficulty of degluti-
“ tion, and imperfect articulation of speech. 6. Quick
“ small pulse, loss of appetite, and debility.” This
patient was cured by a regular and carefully managed
course of mercury. “ Thus was an inveterate
“ disease most completely subdued, during the in-
“ clemency of a severe winter, by a persistence in
“ the above mild methods of exhibiting mercurials,
“ without one hour’s confinement to a particular
“ apartment, or absence from the company of visiting
“ friends; and a life preserved, which would indis-
“ putably have fallen a victim to misplaced con-
“ fidence in the use of the *nitrous acid*.”

VIII. Mr. CLUTTERBUCK (*in his Remarks on some Opinions of Mr. Hunter, p. 44,*) mentions a venereal case, and thinks “ the importance of the
“ new remedies is in no respect more apparent than
“ in this case.” The patient had ulcers in his throat,
with a node on the elbow, which had likewise ulce-
rated. January 1, 1798, he began with half a dram
of the nitrous acid daily, and increased it in four or
five days to one dram. Although the symptoms

amended greatly during the first week, they presently became as bad as ever; so that on the 12th, although the medicine had been augmented for some days to a dram and a half, it was obliged to be discontinued. The acid was afterwards tried again, with a temporary good effect, in conjunction with mercury; but as the history of this case is incomplete, no inference can at present be drawn from it.

SECTION the Fourth: *On the antivenereal effects of muriatic Acid, by Dr. Zeller, of Vienna; and on the medicinal properties of Oxygen, by M. Fournier, Dr. Swédiaur, Dr. Fourcroy, and Dr. Tazewell, of Paris.*

I. In the summer of 1798, I received a polite letter from Dr. Struve, of Görlitz, in Lusatia, requesting that I would send him a copy of my publication on the nitrous acid, &c. for the purpose of translating it into the German language. He has lately favoured me with another letter, dated August 12, 1799, accompanied with a translation of my pamphlet, to which he has added a new preface and occasional notes. In this preface Dr. Struve says, that the first mention of the use of nitric acid for venereal complaints, in England, was through the
medium

medium of HUFELAND'S *Journal der praktischen Arzneikunde*, and afterwards by M. ALYON'S Essay, in 1798; but that the virtues of *muriatic acid*, in the lues venerea, had been long known in Germany. He not only details the substance of the trials which were made with muriatic acid, at the General Hospital of Vienna, but has obligingly transmitted me a copy of the original publication on this subject: it is entitled, SIMON ZELLER'S *Ersten Geburtsarzten, und Ober-Chirurgen am vereinigten allgemeinen Gebaehr-und Krankenhause in Wien: Praktische Bemerkungen ueber den vorzueglichen Nutzen des allgemein bekannten Baadschwamms, und des kalten Wassers, bey chirurgischen Operationen, Verwundungen und Verblutungen ueberhaupt; nebst einem Anhang von der Salzsaeure in Bezug auf die Lustseuche; samt einer Fortsetzung tabellarischer Uebersicht der durch volle zehen Jahre in dem hiesigen Gebaehrhause vorzueglichsten Geburts und Krankheitsvorfaellen. WIEN, 1797. Octavo, pp. 87.*

In this tract, Dr. ZELLER has given us an entire section on the use of muriatic acid in venereal complaints, (*pp. 18—24, Von dem Nutzen der Salzsaeure angewendet in venerischen Krankheiten:*) He says, that

that as the care of the venereal patients was committed to him, he had for a long time been investigating the effects of mercurial preparations on the human body. Especially, he fixed his attention on the corrosive sublimate, *i. e.* Hydrargyrus muriatus; comparing its virtues with other mercurial preparations, and with crude mercury. It is remarkable, he observes, that even the smallest quantity of sublimate, given daily, will produce as severe a ptyalism as twenty times the quantity of any other preparation would effect. Now, if the lues venerea may sometimes be cured by only a dram of sublimate, exhibited in the daily proportion of half a grain; and if the far superior efficacy of this remedy over all other preparations, especially the crude mercury, be also considered; every thinking physician must suspect that there is some inherent active medicine conjoined. It may therefore be naturally asked, how much crude mercury, in comparison with the sublimate, will be required to produce a salivation, or to cure the venereal disease? Suppose there be in each dram of sublimate, about 23 parts of mercury, and 37 of muriatic acid; what can be expected from 23 grains of pure mercury, either exhibited at once, or in divided doses? And so we may enquire

quire of the mercurius dulcis, or calomel; which in respect to sublimate, is made up of the same constituent parts, but perhaps in a converse proportion, *i. e.* as 37 to 23. Experience, says he, proves that three grains of calomel, given every day, will not produce an equal effect with half a grain of sublimate: and as in both, the mercury always remains mercury, the active medicinal power must not be sought for in this ingredient, but in the highly concentrated muriatic acid.

This matter was illustrated, continues the author, by actual experiment. Having recollected what his illustrious teacher, SCOPOLI, had said, *Systemate Mineralogiae, pag. 19na de Muria*, (“ Acidum Muriæ, sapienter enim tactatum, plurima pandit, quæ in expertis fabulosa aut impossibilia videntur;” and indeed the immortal BOERHAAVE does not speak less favourably of it,) he instantly determined to select a patient having the lues venerea, and began by giving him from eight to ten drops of the muriatic acid daily, *spiritus salis acidus*, in two pints of barley-water; augmenting the dose two or three drops every fourth or sixth day, till he took a dram per diem, whereby the cure was happily completed.

Dr.

Dr. ZELLER made these experiments ten years ago, (his book was published in 1797, it is therefore now *twelve years* since,) and disclosed them to BARON VON QUARIN, director of the hospital; who approved of his success, and encouraged him to proceed farther in his trials. He has, since then, continued to employ the muriatic acid, which is regarded by him as the sole efficacious agent in the sublimite, against well-marked, confirmed, and obstinate cases of syphilis, with equal effect, and in some instances with even better; (*“ in der reinen, eingewurzelten, und hartnäckigten lustseuche, mit eben so guten, und in einigen fällen, noch mit bessern erfolge;”*) encreasing the daily dose, as occasion required, to a dram or more, without producing the salivation which would have been inevitably brought on by mercury. Where the lues had attacked scorbutic subjects, who, on account of the dissolved state of their fluids, could not employ mercury, and even in a scurvy without syphilis, he administered this acid with the best effects.

Particular attention should be paid, he says, to the disorders that accompany the lues venerea, which in most books are overlooked: for, the syphilis does
not

not attack those only who are free from other ailments; and to the neglect of such complaints, the failure of remedies may generally be attributed. Among the patients who have come under his care for the venereal disease, were some afflicted with malignant buboes, which spread every day and hour, notwithstanding the antisyphilitic and antiseptic means employed; insomuch that in a few days the whole abdomen, as far as the navel, presented a foul sore, aggravated by successive hemorrhages from putrid blood vessels: the specific and antivenereal remedies were not only useless, but the patients got worse and worse so rapidly, that their cures were despaired of, and the visitors at the hospital gave up all hopes of their surviving. Dr. ZELLER immediately ordered them a larger dose of muriatic acid than usual: the putrefaction was arrested in three days, and there appeared to be an incipient cure; the face, which before was pale and wan, acquired a better colour; the eyes became more lucid; and, by using the muriatic acid both internally and externally, the amendment advanced so quickly from day to day, that, in a few weeks, every body who before had seen these half expiring patients, were now astonished to observe their perfect recovery.

Nor was this acid found less beneficial in the carious bones of ricketty children, so difficult of cure; but, on account of its unpleasant taste, it should be mixed with some agreeable syrup; and, at first, it should be added in so small a proportion as not to be afterwards disgusting. Moreover, he employed the acid externally with the best effects, not only in venereal and scorbutic sores, but in all foul ulcers, conjoined with an infusion of scordium or hemlock. In ill conditioned fistulous openings also, he has injected it, more or less diluted, so as to have produced laudable suppuration, and a complete cure. With equally good effect Dr. ZELLER has applied the muriatic acid to running lymphatic tumours: in short, all these extensive advantages have induced him to recommend this remedy to general notice, in hopes of alleviating the sufferings of his fellow creatures.

II. In the fifth Volume (N^o xxix. p. 358, & seq.) of the *Recueil Periodique de la Société de Médecine de Paris*, 8vo. 1799, is a memoir by M. FOURNIER, containing observations upon the medicinal effects of oxygen, read before the society on the 17th Thermidor, 6th year, i. e. August 3, 1798. The author compliments M. Alyon on his successful employment

employment of oxygen in the lues venerea, and on the explanation he has given of the *modus operandi* of mercury. Its use, he tells us, fully answered the expectations he had previously formed. Among the cases selected to illustrate its good effects, M. Fournier relates the following: (*h*)

1.) Citizen L——, having pains in his bones and chancres within the prepuce, took a dram of pure nitric acid every day, diluted with two pints of water. In eight days the sores were cleaner, became florid, and began to heal: on the twelfth day, they were cicatrized; but his pains were as bad as before. He now took a dram and a half of the acid daily; which relieved him by degrees, and removed the pains in thirty days. During the last five days, he took two drams; and left it off on the thirty-eighth, when a copious salivation took place. The patient was then quite well, and has continued in health ever since.

M M 2

2.) Citizen

(*h*) I here omit or abridge a variety of extraneous and trifling remarks, which do not at all illustrate the effects of the acid, &c. but which, in conjunction with M. Alyon's observations, serve admirably well to demonstrate the wretched state of medical theory in Paris.

2.) Citizen G—— had a violent ophthalmia, after a suppressed gonorrhœa : by the use of local remedies the eyes were relieved ; but the virus, says M. F. was suddenly translated to the bend of the right knee, which became swelled and painful. In consequence of exposure to cold, the ophthalmia returned with increased violence ; and was once more alleviated by topical means, besides which a large blister was also applied to the neck, with a view to cause a discharge, and thereby prevent the morbid matter again affecting the knee. The nitric acid was also employed freely : the discharge from the urethra re-appeared, and the blister suppurated plentifully. After eight days use of the acid, a purgative was given ; the ophthalmia was cured entirely by the twentieth, and no other symptom in the knee supervened. The gonorrhœa now resembled semen, and announced the total destruction of the syphilitic virus!! M. Fournier, however, persisted in exhibiting the nitric lemonade till the fortieth day, when the cure was completed.

3.) The author next relates his having attended an officer, afflicted with venereal tetter on his upper lip, nose, and forehead ; which did not yield to mercurial

curial preparations. This patient took a dram of the acid, diluted with two pints of water, every day; and applied M. Alyon's oxygenated pomatum to the tetters, every evening. In twelve days the symptoms disappeared, but he was still remaining under the care of M. Fournier.

4.) Several distinguished practitioners, we are informed, have tried these remedies in Paris with success. The following is mentioned as one of the most interesting cases: A young man who had, from his infancy, been troubled with an herpetic affection (*humeur dartreuse*) over his body, was treated a long time by venesection, &c. to no good purpose; but forty days use of the nitric lemonade, and constant friction with the oxygenated lard, aided by purgatives and bathing, effected a complete cure.

The cases of M. Alyon, which I have already detailed, are taken from the first impression of his Essay; these of M. Fournier bear a later date: what has been done with the new remedies in France since 1798, I have not yet learnt; but as a new and enlarged edition of M. Alyon's book was recently announced in *L'Esprit des Journaux Français et étrangères*,

étrangeres, par une Société de Gens de Lettres, it may perhaps be in my power to give a further account of the French practice on some future occasion (i).

III. Dr. SWEDIAUR's new work (*Traité complet sur les symptômes les effets, la nature, et le traitement, des maladies syphilitiques,*) has been lately sent to me from Paris. It contains various extracts from the writings of Mr. Scott, M. Alyon, and Dr. Rollo, on this subject, interspersed with occasional notes; to which he has subjoined a few additional observations of his own: but as I have formerly laid the substance of these observations before the public, I shall not here recapitulate them. The following hint, however, with which he concludes, (Vol. II. Chap. x. p. 278.) is well worthy of general attention: “ It appears to
“ me that two grand points remain yet to be verified,
“ in order to establish positively the efficacy and real
“ virtue of the oxygen in syphilis: ONE is to prove,
“ by exact observations, varied and multiplied,
“ whether it actually suffices *alone, without mercury,*
“ to

(i) As I am preparing a *third edition* of my former pamphlet for the press, an opportunity will be soon afforded me of subjoining any *new* information that may transpire, either in this country or upon the continent.

“ to cure syphilitic complaints: the SECOND, is to
“ determine with precision, and after a suitable lapse
“ of time, whether it merely suspends the action of
“ the syphilitic virus for some time, as mercury and
“ the other antisyphilitic remedies too often do; or
“ if it cure *completely and radically* every species of
“ syphilitic affection, arising from either a primary
“ or secondary infection, without any risque what-
“ ever of future relapse.”

IV. In the 84th number of the French “ *Annales de Chemie,*” is a well written paper by Dr. FOURCROY, on Pneumatic Chemistry, &c. in which are a few observations relating to the antivenereal effects of nitric acid and oxygenated muriate of potash: in a little tract published by Dr. TAZEWEEL, of Paris, are likewise some remarks on this subject: from thence we learn, that the oxygenated remedies have been very extensively employed in France “ *with great success.*” But farther accounts have not yet come to hand.

I now proceed to enquire what practical conclusions may be deduced from the foregoing series of facts.

CHAPTER V.

Remarks on the preceding Evidence.

LORD BACON has somewhere observed, that
“ it is the bane of philosophy to regard only a few
“ phenomena, and to pronounce according to them.”
This remark is peculiarly applicable on the present
occasion. The very limited success of those who first
proclaimed the efficacy of the new remedies, em-
boldened them to attempt the *banishment of mercury*
from the list of antivenereals!!! Some other prac-
titioners, having been disappointed in their trials with
these medicines, seem to have hastily concluded that
they are not only inadequate to the cure of genuine
syphilitic complaints, but that they are even unworthy
of a place in the *materia medica*. Almost every
common observer is disposed to rest his judgment
on too scanty a number of facts, and to pronounce
with confidence before the general mass of evidence
has been examined. The various unexpected delays
and interruptions which I have met with in collecting
the above materials, (although they were rather vex-
atious to myself and my correspondents,) have
afforded me an opportunity of making more satis-
factory

factory observations on this subject than I could otherwise have done: my opinions now (November 1799) are more settled, and perhaps more correct, than they were formerly. The first grand enquiry, I think, should be respecting THE COMPARATIVE POWER OF MERCURY AND THE NEW REMEDIES, IN A CONFIRMED SYPHILIS.

After the experience of more than three centuries, it would be egregious trifling to offer a series of facts in proof of the specific virtue of MERCURY in a confirmed lues venerea: but since the new remedies have been brought forward as competitors in this respect,—since they are proposed to the world as fit substitutes for that mineral,—it will by no means be improper to premise a few words by way of general *testimony in its favour*; and then, let the candid reader determine how far the new antivenereal medicines are entitled to similar encomiums.

1. “ It is now generally allowed that mercury is “ the only *infallible specific* for the cure of the venereal disease,” says Dr. SAUNDERS.

2. “ The *specific* now generally applied for all
N N “ kinds

“ kinds of venereal disorders, is mercury in its dif-
“ ferent preparations. Mercury is made use of not
“ only on account of its *specific* power against this
“ disorder, but because it is a remedy which is cheap,
“ easily to be got, and quick and *certain in its*
“ *effects.*” Dr. SWEDIAUR,

3. “ Mercury is certainly the *best*, if not the *only*
“ cure for a pox.” Mr. JOHN HOWARD,

4. “ Mercury, properly administered, scarcely
“ fails *three times in five hundred* of those cases
“ which are commonly regarded as venereal. The
“ proof of its *specific powers*, therefore, almost
“ amounts to a certainty.” Mr. JOHN PEARSON.

5. “ Nothing can shew more the ungrateful or
“ unsettled mind of man, than his treatment of this
“ medicine. If there be such a thing as a *specific*,
“ mercury is one for the venereal disease.” Mr.
JOHN HUNTER,

6. “ It being now adays admitted that mercury
“ is the *only* antivenereal medicine yet discovered, I
“ shall consider it as a self-evident truth, as a datum
“ which

“ which will not be disputed. The use of mercury
“ is *safe, certain, and most effectual*, if rightly ad-
“ ministered.” Mr. JESSE FOOT.

7. “ I am disposed, from the result of my own
“ experience, to say that mercury, under proper
“ management, may be considered as a *certain*
“ *remedy* for syphilis, when not combined with other
“ diseases. Mr. BENJAMIN BELL.

It may now be enquired, whether similar pre-
tensions can be alledged in favour of the new anti-
venereal remedies? Whether men of equal skill and
experience can be found to attest the *specific* proper-
ties of oxygen, under any of its forms? and Whether
this has been proved in cases which were indubitably
syphilitic?

Some persons will be ready to ask me, “ What
“ sort of cases are indubitably venereal? For unless
“ this point be agreed on, we may still differ in our
“ conclusion.” The surgeons of the Woolwich
hospital, and a few other practitioners, appear to
have selected cases of *primary* affections, as being,
in their judgment, more strongly and distinctly

marked than secondary symptoms; " these being
" *always* less equivocal and doubtful." Dr. Bed-
does and his anonymous friend seem to entertain
similar notions: therefore, " to confine the investiga-
" tion to secondary cases *chiefly*, would be to sacri-
" fice public utility to the fastidiousness always mani-
" fested by persons who affect peculiar lights."

These gentlemen may possibly claim a nicer de-
gree of discrimination than really belongs to them ;
they may assume, what will not be generally granted,
that the symptoms of a confirmed syphilis are less
easily detected and recognised than those of the
primary disease ; they may smile at the idea of early
complaints being removed without antivenereal medi-
cines, and thereby proving an insufficient criterion of
the presence of syphilitic poison: but, I apprehend, the
most experienced and competent observers will still
believe that recent affections are almost *always* du-
bious as to their nature, and may often (if not mostly)
be cured without a particle of mercury.

When I affirm that *secondary* symptoms are the
only proper marks of a syphilitic infection, and that
the cure of these *alone* can demonstrate the anti-
venereal

venereal power of the new remedies, it is pleasing to find that I am countenanced by high authority. Dr. HOPE, of Edinburgh, did me the honour of transmitting a letter on this subject during the pending controversy: he writes, "Your exertions to ascertain by
" your own practice, as well as by the communica-
" tions of others, the real value of the new anti-
" venereal substances, are meritorious. I trust they
" will materially contribute to the discovery of the
" truth, in the present matter of controversy. You
" are assuredly right, that it is from cases of con-
" stitutional lues ALONE, that indisputable proofs
" of their efficacy can be furnished."

The editors of the LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW AND MAGAZINE, Vol. I. N^o iii. page 232, (in their account of Dr. Rollo's publication) make the following remark; plainly shewing that their sentiments accord exactly with those of Professor Hope: "*The effect of the new remedies in SECONDARY SYMP-
" TOMS has been chiefly disputed, and is that by
" which their antivenereal properties will most
" probably be estimated.*" I might here add the testimonies of various authors, who admit that primary affections are generally equivocal, and may be
cured

cured without mercury; so that their being successfully treated with the acid, or the kali, proves nothing to the purpose.

- It will be granted, on the other hand, that secondary venereal complaints are sometimes difficult to ascertain; but, as this is not the case where they are completely formed, and no mercury has been previously employed, it is very easy to select patients who in all respects are unexceptionable: such then, are the instances I would rely on for deciding the question before us; and it is from such cases only, "*that indisputable proofs*" of the antivenereal power of the new remedies "*can be furnished.*"

Does the evidence before the public afford any indubitable proofs of this kind? The cases which have been transmitted to England from Mr. HELENUS SCOTT, are far from being satisfactory, on account of the loose and imperfect manner in which he has detailed them. The FIRST letter of this gentleman makes mention of an "head-ach that came on every night" having been removed by the internal use of nitric acid; but no stress can be laid on so superficial a remark. Mr. S. indeed says, farther,
he

he has given it “ for exostoses, for carious bones, “ for nocturnal pains, for eruptions and ulcers of “ the skin, and for all the train of misery that is “ attendant on lues:” this is speaking roundly and positively ; but the author does not condescend to give *explicit details*, such as may be examined and appreciated by the public. In his SECOND letter, Mr. S. advances nothing to our present purpose : I therefore pass on to the THIRD. He here speaks very confidently of the beneficial effects of the acid in a confirmed lues, employed externally : he does the same in his FOURTH communication : but as these premature accounts were afterwards formally retracted, (Letter to Dr. Beddoes, Oct. 20, 1797,) it becomes us to bury them in total oblivion. While we see, with regret, that Mr. S. has committed himself to the mercy of the critics by this *faux pas*, it is remarkable that in the very letter which contains his retraction (concerning the EXTERNAL use of the acid) he writes “ *that no case can resist it*” when properly administered INTERNALLY. Even here, however, it is again to be lamented that he is not sufficiently explicit ; so that we can obtain but little information as to the precise nature of the symptoms wherein it may be *most* depended on. These are his words: “ Those
“ melancholy

“ melancholy situations, where mercury affords but
“ a temporary relief for that disease, seem to occur
“ more commonly here than in Europe. In all
“ those cases, I find the acid an effectual remedy,
“ and in my own hands, as well as in those of others,
“ it has already been a great blessing to many.
“ While I have the satisfaction of seeing my opinion
“ of it confirmed by the happy experience of every
“ day, I feel a little anxious respecting the decisions
“ of the medical world in Europe ; for your diseases
“ are so different from ours, and the human body so
“ altered, by climate, that it is dangerous to advance
“ far from reasoning or analogy.”

I shall next consider how far the communications from Dr. ROLLO and his colleagues go to establish the efficacy of the new remedies in a confirmed syphilis. The first edition of Dr. Rollo's work contained an account of only *two* patients with secondary symptoms, treated by these means ; the former of whom was ultimately cured by mercury, and the latter remained “ still under cure.” In Dr. Rollo's second edition, it was natural to expect a continuance of this person's history and treatment ; but not a word more occurs, either to clear up our doubts or to confirm

confirm our hopes respecting this case: I therefore presume that the event was unfavourable.

—————*Si pergama dextrâ
Defendi possent, etiam hac defensa fuissent.*

If during their first trials these gentlemen hesitated, (as indeed they had great reason,) their subsequent experiments encouraged them to speak quite positively concerning the fullness of their success: “ The
“ continuation of the results of the trials with the new
“ remedies in the lues venerea will, we trust, be found
“ satisfactory; as it *completely* establishes their effi-
“ cacy, in the SECONDARY as well as in the primary
“ states of the disease.” The following twelve cases of confirmed lues, have been adduced in support of this position: but perhaps, on examining them separately, we may find reason to doubt the propriety of so bold and unqualified an inference.

“ CASE VI. *Gunner Bosworth*, of apparently a scrophulous habit, was admitted 20th July, 1797, with a painful nodous-like enlargement of the right tibia, and a glandular swelling in the neck. He says, that about four months ago he had contracted the venereal disease, and had several venereal
o o chancres

chancres upon the glans penis, which had healed in about seven or eight days. He had taken mercurial pills, and had used a small quantity of mercurial ointment: his mouth had been made sore by this treatment. The bony enlargement came on very lately; it is painful, and tender to the touch. He has likewise severe pains in his arms, &c. He was ordered the nitrous acid, from two to three drachms daily, and small electric sparks to be drawn from the tumours.—August 1. The node and swelling in the neck are better. The nitrous acid and electricity to be continued.—August 13th. He has an inflammation of the eyes, with small ulcerations of the eyelids. The nitrated mercurial ointment was ordered to be applied to them daily, and the nitrous acid to be continued.—Sept. 1st. The pains of his limbs, swelling of the neck and node, as well as the inflammation of the eyes, being removed, he was discharged the hospital cured.”

REMARKS. When a patient has been using mercurial pills and ointment, previous to the exhibition of the acid, any conclusion drawn in favour of this remedy from such a case, must necessarily stand upon a very precarious foundation. But it may even

even be called in question whether the disease of *Bosworth* was unequivocally venereal; as scrofulous subjects are frequently affected with tumours in the glands and bones, without any venereal taint. Besides, I remark that subordinate means were here employed in conjunction with the acid.

“ CASE VII. *Gunner Kelk* was admitted into the hospital the 19th July, 1797, with gonorrhœa. In the beginning of August following, many eruptions began to appear upon his face, breast, and arms; these spots *resembled* venereal eruptions. He had also severe pains in his limbs, and the tibia of one leg was tender to the touch. He said, that about three months ago he contracted the venereal disease while he was in the country, and had a chancre upon the prepuce, with a bubo; the former healed, and the bubo subsided.—Aug. 9th. He was ordered the nitrous acid, from one to three drachms daily, and electric sparks to be drawn from the painful parts. Sept. 28th. He was discharged the hospital in good health.”

REMARKS. There is an evident confusion and uncertainty in this history. No skilful surgeon

will suppose that genuine syphilitic eruptions were occasioned by a gonorrhœa of only a fortnight's duration, without any other concomitant symptom; and, with regard to the disease said to have been "contracted about three months ago," we have not sufficient ground to believe that it was *then* treated as venereal by any professional man, nor that it was even attended to by the patient. We may therefore expect more decisive evidence than this, of the utility of the acid in syphilitic eruptions.

"CASE IX. *Corporal Atkinson* was admitted into the hospital in July, 1797, with a painful venereal node upon the right tibia, severe pains in his nose and the bones of the face, &c. He says, that about three years ago, he contracted the venereal disease; at that time, he had chancres, bubo, and sore throat; he was treated by mercury pretty freely, and underwent repeated salivations. This treatment took up a period of five months; when, being apparently cured of his venereal complaints, he was sent into the country upon furlough, to take the benefit of sea-bathing, as he was much debilitated. After some time, he returned to head-quarters, at Woolwich, in apparent good health, and did his military duty.

August

August 2nd. He was ordered the nitrous acid to the quantity of two drachms daily.—August 14th. The node and pains are relieved. The nitrous acid to be continued. 26th. He continues to mend. He complains of a soreness of his gums, and has a slight spitting. The nitrous acid to be continued.—Sept. 28th. He was discharged cured.”

REMARKS. After a person has undergone “repeated salivations,” and has had no other complaint recurring than nodes, strong suspicions may be entertained that his disorder, in *that* stage of it, is not truly venereal. Mercury often and long exhibited, will certainly occasion pains; and the experience I have had with the nitrous acid, in a number of cases, makes me very skeptical in admitting that a legitimate venereal node was cured *radically* during less than a two months course of this medicine.

“CASE XII. *Gunner Buchanan* was admitted into the hospital the 16th Sept. 1797, with a paraphymosis, and a large, deep, ill-conditioned venereal chancre upon the prepuce. He said these complaints began to appear about three weeks ago; he then was at Chatham, where he took a few mercurial

curial pills. He was ordered the nitrous acid, from one to two drachms daily. The saturnine lotion to be applied to the sore. A few days after his admission into the hospital, some venereal eruptions began to appear upon various parts of his body. He was ordered to continue with the nitrous acid.—October 8th. A fresh crop of eruptions appeared yesterday; the former ones have left a copper-coloured stain upon the skin. The chancre nearly healed. The saturnine lotion and the nitrous acid to be continued. Oct. 30th. He was discharged cured.”

REMARKS. Successive crops of venereal eruptions appeared, it is said, during the use of the acid; and the last time, was Oct. 7th: from this day to the 30th (a period of little more than *three weeks*) the patient, by persevering with the same remedy, was compleatly cured! Either I must suppose the eruptions were not venereal, or that the man would have experienced a relapse. My judgment inclines rather to the former opinion, as it is so long a time since the cure was performed.

“CASE XIII. *Driver Donally* was admitted into the hospital, 1797, with a large venereal chancre upon

upon the prepuce and glans penis. This man had been quartered at Lewes, in Sussex. The surgeon, who had the care of him, treated him with mercury for a considerable time, but could not heal the sore; he was therefore sent up to Woolwich. Upon his admission into the hospital, mercury again was had recourse to, but without effect: he at length became subject to severe headachs, pains in his legs; and venereal eruptions began to appear upon various parts of his body. At this time he was ordered the nitrous acid, from one to three drachms daily, joined with a decoction of bark. *A great variety* of topical applications were employed during the cure, among which were the hydrogen and carbonic acid gasses, and with apparent benefit. He continued with the nitrous acid and bark a considerable time, until the sore, eruptions, and pains, were completely removed. He was discharged the hospital cured."

REMARKS. Although this imperfect history shews that the nitrous acid and other remedies were efficacious, it does not clearly demonstrate what was the nature of the case when it fell under the care of Dr. Wittman. This gentleman has designedly suppressed all the dates, and the greater part of the narrative,

rative, because it was “ a long and troublesome case ;” but, we cannot suppose he would have done so, if the circumstances had been in all respects favourable.

CASE XXXII. *Gunner Porter* was admitted Sept. 10th, 1797, with chancres of two weeks duration. He began with eight drops of the solution of oxygenated muriate of manganese, three times daily ; and encreased the dose gradually : the sores were washed with the saturnine lotion. In six days the patient had a tumefaction and ulceration of the tonsils : the preparation of manganese was now omitted, and small doses of bark were administered. The ulceration of the tonsils having spread, the oxygenated solution was ordered again on the 20th of Sept. and the dose of it was augmented to 15 drops, four times a day. On the 24th the chancres were healed.—Oct. 15th. After the dose of the solution had been given for some time in the proportion of 60 drops, this medicine was omitted. 22nd. Ten grains of oxygenated muriate of potash were directed four times daily, and to be encreased by degrees.—Nov. 3d. The throat better. 6th. The potash was now left off, on account of an inflammation in one eye. 18th. The ophthalmia being removed,

removed, and the tonsils having got worse, this salt was again had recourse to.—Dec. 18th. His throat nearly well: he took 160 grains a day. 20th. A small fresh ulcer began to appear yesterday: he was ordered to gargle his throat with a strong decoction of oak bark.—Jan. 13th, 1798. The patient was discharged cured.

REMARKS. From the circumstances connected with the origin, progress, and termination of this man's sore throat, I am disposed to think it was not truly venereal: and I am the more settled in my opinion, upon comparing this case with the 57th and 61st; in which spreading ulcerations of the tonsils likewise occurred, but were not deemed venereal by Dr. Wittman.

CASE XXXIX. *Driver Benfield* was admitted Dec. 9th, 1797, with phymosis, and a purulent discharge from concealed chancres: a saturnine lotion was freely employed, and the oxygenated muriate of potash was given from ten to thirty grains four times a day.—Jan. 6th, 1798. The chancres were healed; but florid eruptions began to appear yesterday upon the face, back, &c.—Feb. 2nd. The eruptions com-

pletely removed: he was discharged cured.—May 13th. Having been re-admitted with an inflammation in one eye, some venereal eruptions were discovered, intermixed with the *herpes farinosus*. In a week's time the eye was relieved; but it was determined to give the oxygenated muriate of potash against the venereal eruptions.—June 6th. They were disappearing, and threw off branny scales. 26th. The eruptions had nearly vanished: the salt was continued, to the quantity of 100 grains a day. 20th. He was discharged in good health, and remained well three months afterwards.

REMARKS. In this case, three kinds of eruptions appeared. I will not guess which of them was venereal, and which not; but in several cases of eruptions described in this volume, the distinctions are so superficially made, that the reader cannot possibly discriminate between them. Some are called venereal, because “they leave a copper-coloured stain upon the skin;” and yet, in the 53rd case, precisely the same account is given of eruptions in a patient, which were *not* regarded as syphilitic. Is not this a manifest contradiction?

See case 62nd, p. 294. •

CASE

CASE LII. *Gunner Itch* was admitted March the 28th, 1798, with a supposed chancre on the scrotum. He was ordered bread pills; a lotion and some common ointment were applied to the sore.— May 5th. The sore was healed: eruptions now appeared upon his forehead, breast, and arms, believed to be venereal: he also had a sore throat, inflamed tonsils, and aphous excoriations. The oxygenated muriate of potash was therefore given, from fifteen to twenty grains, four times daily. In seven days, the sore throat was cured; and the eruptions were going off, “leaving a copper-coloured stain upon the skin.” July 6th. He was discharged well.

REMARKS. Who will deny that this case is in *all* respects equivocal? The symptoms exactly corresponded with others which were *not* deemed venereal. I am far from setting up my opinion in opposition to that of the Woolwich surgeons; but, on comparing their own histories together, I cannot forbear expressing my doubts.

CASE LVI. *Driver Whitehead* had “a large deep ulcer in the right tonsil, accompanied by venereal eruptions upon his hands.” On the 4th of

August, 1798, he was ordered to take from fifteen to thirty-five grains of the oxygenated muriate of potash four times daily. On the 31st, these symptoms were cured. His medicine was continued till Sept. 12th, when the patient was discharged.

REMARKS. It is not very credible that such a bad case, if really venereal, should have been cured in so short a time. I have used the same remedy, much more freely, against eruptions and ulcers; but, with a very different result. Compare the history of *John Gibbins*, (part 1, chap. 4, sect. 3, case 9,) whom I treated at the Finsbury Dispensary. A just remark of Dr. Beddoes comes here into my mind: "The different operation of the same remedies demonstrates the dissimilarity of cases pronounced similar."

CASE LIX. *Gunner Johnstone* was admitted in the beginning of June, 1797, for a diseased liver: he was treated with the nitrous acid; and discharged August the 15th in apparent good health. He had chancres during the time of his continuance in the hospital, although he had concealed them; and was re-admitted on this account, upon the 21st of August. The acid was again had recourse to. The chancres were

were almost healed Sept. 17th. At that time, however, a slight swelling appeared on the left tibia.—Sept. 20th. The acid was discontinued, and the compound powder of ipecacuanha was given for some days.—Oct. 7th. Severe headaches having troubled him, and a swelling now appearing on his forehead, he was ordered the nitrous acid as before.—Nov. 29th. Nodes had also formed on the tibia, clavicle, and sternum: he was therefore ordered from five to twenty grains of oxygenated muriate of potash, four times a day; the bark to be joined with it, and fifty drops of laudanum every night at bed time.—Dec. 22nd. The nodes were diminished.—Jan. 14th, 1798. They were nearly gone: the bark, laudanum, and salt, continued.—April 5th. He was discharged cured, and went into the country for the recovery of his strength.—Aug. 31st. He returned to his regiment, much improved in health.

REMARKS. This seems to be a favourable narration: but, if the generality of my former strictures be just, may we not fear lest there was something fallacious, even in this case? The chief doubt is, respecting the *genuine* character of the nodes. Is the patient well at the present time?

CASE

CASE LXII. *Gunner Lishman* was received on the 25th of January, 1798, with a bad chancre and phymosis. Three drams of nitrous acid were given daily, and the sore was dressed with oxygenated ointment. The man's imprudent conduct retarded the cure, and the ulcer was spreading on the 19th of February. At this time the oxygenated muriate of potash was exhibited, instead of the acid; and peruvian bark, with opium, were administered freely. For a week past, the carbonic acid gas had been applied twice a day, about fifteen or twenty minutes, and the saturnine lotion was also employed. 24th. The ulcer cast off a slough this morning: the potash and other medicines were continued.—March 24th. The sore was healed; “several venereal eruptions” appeared upon his face, breast, and arms. They vanished, however, in a fortnight, “but left a dark coloured mark on the skin.” He was discharged the hospital April 9th.—He was readmitted May 18th, with a fresh crop of similar eruptions, which appeared “several weeks ago.” After taking from fifteen to twenty-five grains of the oxygenated muriate of potash four times daily, till the 4th of July, he was discharged cured.

Compare this case with the 39th, p. 290.

REMARKS.

REMARKS. Can it be supposed that these eruptions were really syphilitic? They are said to have been *cured* the second time by taking the potash alone about forty-six days: whereas the same remedy had been before given during a longer space of time, and was preceded by a course of the nitrous acid, without effecting a cure of more than a fortnight's continuance! Where fresh crops of eruptions appear and vanish successively, for many weeks, it must be suspected that they were not venereal: at least, such a narrative is far from being satisfactory to those who were not eye-witnesses of the case.

CASE LXIII. *Driver Christley* is the last instance of secondary symptoms detailed by Dr. Wittman. After having been two months cured of an ill-conditioned ulcer upon the pubis, by the nitrous acid, he was readmitted on the 20th of May, 1798, with venereal eruptions on his arms, a small ulcer on each tonsil, pains in his legs, and a slight deafness: he was ordered from fifteen to twenty-five grains of the oxygenated muriate of potash four times a day.— June 6th. “The eruptions left a copper coloured stain upon the skin:” the salt was continued till the 26th, when he was discharged cured.

REMARKS.

REMARKS. What has been said upon the 39th, 56th, and 59th cases will apply on the present occasion. These are all the confirmed cases brought forward by Dr. ROLLO and his coadjutors. If the public will admit that they are perfectly conclusive and satisfactory,—if they be deemed of sufficient weight to justify the triumphant language we have read,—I shall feel bound to acknowledge my want of discrimination, and quietly to retire from the field of controversy. I have drawn up some remarks on the *primary cases* of Dr. Rollo, many of which appear to me as exceptionable as the others; but, that I might not be tediously prolix, it was thought better to suppress them.

In the two collections of cases by Dr. BEDDOES, there appears but a very small proportion of secondary venereal affections. If I were disposed to examine them with a critical eye, it would be found that all these cases are questionable, as proofs of the anti-venereal power of the new remedies: but most readers will doubtless be able to distinguish the fallacious circumstances I allude to, without my assistance. Some of these exceptions are so glaringly obvious, that I am surprised any practitioner could
venture

venture to bring such cases before the public! They evidently tend to discredit the cause they were designed to support. Others, by the confession of the writers themselves, were inconclusive, either on account of imperfect cures or subsequent relapses. The ingenuous acknowledgement of Dr. TROTTER (in the second volume of his *Medicina Nautica*) is particularly commendable; and would probably be imitated by many other practitioners, if they could reconcile their feelings to appear in so humiliating a situation. Time, however, will expose unfavourable trials with the new remedies, which, for the present, may remain concealed.

After all the deductions to be made for known and concealed relapses, with a due abatement for the mistakes and exaggerations of enthusiasm, we are compelled to state the reputed successful trials in a confirmed syphilis at a very low computation; and, when compared with the numerous failures, they almost dwindle into nothing. How many practitioners in the different London hospitals (as I find upon enquiry) there are, who have employed the new remedies in vain, but decline giving the result of their experience to the public? How many more

are there in the same predicament in the country? Not to mention, that motives of delicacy, or personal considerations, may act as a restraint on other individuals, detached from such official situations. Could all the existing facts connected with this enquiry be brought to light, there is reason to believe that in genuine cases of confirmed syphilis the new remedies have proved universally deficient.

I shall be forgiven by the candid part of my readers if, in discussing this question, I take the liberty of referring to my own experience as particularly decisive. The number of my former trials, in secondary cases, exceeds those of any other practitioner who has written on the subject; and, besides those that were heretofore published, I have had some farther experience which completely establishes my sentiments. Upon the whole then, I can only draw the following inference, that ‘*the oxygenated remedies may be MOST depended on, in cases where a venereal taint is LEAST capable of proof.*’ This is what I asserted ten months ago, and it is a declaration which I do not find the smallest cause to retract.

On turning back to the cases published by Dr.
Beddoes,

Beddoes, it would not be difficult to select a few which, *primâ facie*, may be thought to militate against this general inference. For example, in the first collection of cases, Dr. Beddoes and Mr. Baynton gave an account of a most deplorable patient, (*Mr. H. of Bristol*,) who at that time “ appeared in good “ health,” and was said to have “ obtained a cure” by the use of the acid: but from a letter which he wrote on the 30th of August, I expressed my suspicion that this gentleman’s cure was incomplete. The event justified my apprehensions: for in the next report of his situation, fourteen months afterwards, we are told that he had “ *many venereal* “ *symptoms.*” And it is highly probable, that when fourteen months have elapsed after the other reputed cures which appear to clash with my opinion, we shall find results similar to this now related. What I here observe concerning the secondary cases published by Dr. Beddoes, may be extended to all the reports of which I have given an abstract.

. I regard the enquiry into the antisyphilitic qualities of the new medicines as decided in the negative, by their proving insufficient for the *permanent* cure of a confirmed syphilis: consequently, it cannot be

assumed that they are *antivenereal*, merely from their appearing to be completely efficacious in many cases of the recent disease. Various causes may concur to prevent the absorption of venereal matter, where chancres, buboes, or gonorrhœa exist; so that the constitution may possibly not become infected, under any common plan of treatment, nor even in some totally neglected patients. This remark has often been confirmed in my own practice: and I lay considerable stress upon this fact, because the issue of the present controversy very much depends upon it: though I do not infer from thence, that mercury (a true antisyphilitic remedy) may be always dispensed with in primary symptoms; nor that, “in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the disease cures itself.” But the conclusion I draw from the success of numerous trials made with the acid and oxygenated muriate of potash, in primary symptoms, is—that topical means of cure, accompanied with appropriate internal remedies, will very frequently, if not generally, supersede the necessity of employing mercury. Perhaps this rule may be applied to a much greater extent than we have hitherto suspected; and I think the idea is strengthened by the consideration that ALL the local symptoms which appear “*post coitum cum foeda muliere*”

“ muliere” (to use the words of an old writer) existed, and were cured without mercury, long before the *lues venerea* had been witnessed in any part of Europe.

Although I am willing to give a great degree of credit to the efficacy of the new remedies in buboes and chancres, upon the supposition that the accounts given in their favour may be generally depended on, I can by no means allow that they were *solely* instrumental in curing all the primary cases brought forward as successful; and in many of the examples where a successful event was finally attained, it does not appear that a more *speedy* cure was accomplished than might have been by the usual treatment. The truth of these remarks will be made perfectly obvious, by an attentive perusal of the cases published by Dr. Rollo; and they might be equally verified, by referring to the reports accumulated by Dr. Beddoes, M. Alyon, and others. Many of these patients employed collateral means of cure, independently of the new remedies; and a great number of the cures were extremely tedious, notwithstanding this combined plan of treatment.

In attempting to estimate the value of a *new* remedy,

medy, the greatest attention ought to be paid to the circumstances under which it is administered: for otherwise, we can expect nothing but uncertainty and confusion. In the present instance, it is not sufficient to have selected fit patients; but the supposed anti-venereal remedies ought to have been exhibited *alone*, in order to ascertain their peculiar virtues. Instead of this, we read of ointments, lotions, embrocations, cataplasms, and various internal medicines, employed in conjunction with the acids, &c. Now, who can discriminate between the effects of several co-operating means? Let each be tried separately, and then we may easily ascertain their respective merits.

One of the chief handles which medical men have given to empirics, is the misapplication of names to diseases: hence arise so many alledged cures of complaints which never existed. Cancer and syphilis, for example, have been a thousand times said to have been cured; when, in reality, neither of these diseases was present. There are various anomalous disorders which mimic certain symptoms of the lues venerea, (and which sometimes are the effect of an ill-conducted course of mercury,) that may be relieved by medicines never suspected to be antisyphilitic.

philitic. May not many of the symptoms which have been successfully treated by the new remedies be of this spurious kind? And does not “the different operation of the same remedies demonstrate the dissimilarity of cases pronounced similar?” The efficacy of mercury when properly administered in a genuine lues, is so universally acknowledged, that whenever this mineral fails to afford relief, we may reasonably question if the cause of the disease be venereal: it is therefore rather surprizing that gentlemen should select cases for the trial of the new remedies, wherein “mercury had either failed or produced little effect.” Mr. Scott and others seem to pronounce the acid *antivenereal*, because it proved effectual after mercury had been tried “for years together” without benefit: whereas the very circumstance of mercury being quite useless, ought to have suggested the idea that such symptoms were really *not* syphilitic. Dr. Swediaur, after having explained why some venereal complaints do not yield to mercury, says, “We are far more frequently disappointed in our expectations from mercury, by mistaking the nature of the disorder, by judging those complaints venereal which never were venereal, or which often are owing either to the effects
“ of

“ of mercury, or to a state of the disorder, which,
“ though originally arising from the venereal virus,
“ has degenerated, either by time or other causes,
“ into a disease of a quite different nature, for which
“ mercury is not only no antidote, but a real poison.”

I have already made occasional observations respecting the ambiguous character of primary venereal complaints; and have insisted upon the uncertainty of all conclusions founded principally on the cure of such equivocal symptoms: but I am perfectly aware that this argument will be strongly controverted, by the adherents to the new plan of treatment; and, therefore, that it requires some additional support. The primary symptoms are believed by the Woolwich surgeons to be the *least* doubtful of any, (as I before stated,) and Dr. Beddoes has endeavoured very strenuously to propagate a similar opinion. If this fundamental axiom prove untenable, their whole system must fall to the ground: for the credit of the new remedies, I perceive, chiefly rests on the validity of this supposition.

“ Mr. Hunter’s assertion,” says Dr. B. “ that
“ the venereal disease is suspected to be present in
“ many

“ many cases where the nature of the disorder is not
“ well marked, applies, I think, *less to LOCAL than*
“ *to constitutional symptoms.* In general, external
“ circumstances so fully corroborate the symptoms,
“ that *practitioners never feel more assured of having*
“ *discriminated justly, or are perhaps more rarely*
“ *mistaken, than in PRIMARY AFFECTIONS:*” (*New*
Reports, pp. 220, 221.) The following passages,
selected from Mr. Hunter’s treatise on the Venereal
Disease, (2nd Edition, 4to. 1788,) will shew how far
this celebrated surgeon differed from Dr. Beddoes:
and if Mr. H. so frequently found himself unable to
detect primary syphilitic affections, and to distinguish
them from spurious symptoms, what can be expected
from the generality of practitioners?

He believed that the matter of gonorrhœa and of
chancre were identically the same, pp. 13, 14, 15:
“ the proofs of which are, that the matter of a go-
“ norrhœa will produce either a gonorrhœa, a chan-
“ cre, or the lues venerea; and the matter of a
“ chancre will also produce either a gonorrhœa, a
“ chancre, or the lues venerea.”—Respecting the
characteristic marks of a gonorrhœa syphilitica, he
tells us, p. 94, “ the distinction between gonorrhœa

“ and gleet is *not yet ascertained* :” again, “ it becomes very difficult in *many cases* (and often not possible) to determine whether or not it is venereal; for it is *often thought venereal, when it really is not so*,” pp. 34, 60.—Speaking of the treatment of this symptom, he maintains not only that “ we every day see gonorrhœas cured by the most ignorant ;” but even holds an opinion “ of all gonorrhœas ceasing without medical help,” p. 35 : “ time alone,” says he, “ will effect a cure,” p. 69; and “ *I find that it is as often cured without mercury as with it*,” p. 73.

“ A very common symptom attending a gonorrhœa, is a swelling of the testicle. This, like the affection of the bladder, and many of the symptoms mentioned before, is only sympathetic, and *not to be reckoned venereal*,” p. 53.

“ We might naturally suppose swellings (in the absorbent glands) accompanying complaints in the urethra, attended with a discharge, to be owing to the absorption of that matter; and therefore, if it be a venereal discharge, that they must also be venereal. But *we must not be too hasty in drawing this conclusion* : for we know that the glands will sometimes

“ times swell from an irritation at the origin of the
“ lymphatics, where no absorption could possibly
“ have taken place :” p. 57.—“ It sometimes hap-
“ pens that the glands of the groin are affected in a
“ common gonorrhœa with the appearance of begin-
“ ning buboes, but which I suspect to be similar to
“ the swelling of the testicle, that is, *merely sympa-*
“ *thetic.*” Ibid.—“ When buboes arise in women,
“ where there is no chancre, it is more difficult to
“ know whether they are venereal or not than in
“ men. In women it is *often difficult* to know
“ whether there be any infection present or not,”
p. 264.—“ To distinguish, with certainty, the true
“ venereal bubo from swellings of the glands arising
“ from other causes, may be *very difficult.*” p. 266.—
“ I am afraid that patients have *often* undergone a
“ mercurial course, when there has been *no occasion*
“ *for it.*” Ibid.—“ Buboes are undoubtedly local
“ complaints.” p. 269.—“ A gentleman had all the
“ symptoms of a slight fever; the pulse a little
“ quick and hard; loss of appetite, and of course
“ loss of flesh; a listlessness, and a sallow look.
“ While he was in this state, a swelling took place in
“ one of the groins. His friends became uneasy,
“ and sent their surgeons to him, who *imagined that*

“ the disease was venereal, and talked of giving mer-
“ cury.” Mr. H. was of a different opinion, and
recommended “ sea-bathing alone.” p. 268.—He
adds, “ the above-mentioned appearance, with the
“ constitutional affections, I have seen take place
“ when there were chancres ; and *I have been puzzled*
“ to determine whether it was sympathetic, from a
“ derangement of the constitution, or from the ab-
“ sorption of matter.”

“ I have seen cases, where the venereal matter,
“ like a cold or fever, has only irritated the glands
“ to disease, producing in them scrofula, to which
“ they were predisposed.” p. 269. Some of these
will suppurate, “ if mercury be given to destroy the
“ venereal disposition ; others, which *probably* had a
“ venereal taint at first, become so indolent that
“ mercury has no effect upon them, and in the end
“ get well of themselves, or by other means ; which,
“ I imagine, may have induced *some to think that*
“ *buboes are never venereal.* Such cases require great
“ attention, that we may be able to determine them
“ properly ; and I believe, this requires in *many cases*
“ so nice a judgement, that we shall be *often liable to*
“ *mistakes.*” Ibid.

“ Sores on the glans penis, prepuce, &c. *in form*
“ *of chancres*, may and do arise *without any venereal*
“ *infection.*” p. 380.—Again, Mr. Hunter remarks
that “ Venereal ulcers commonly have *one* character,
“ which however is not entirely peculiar to them,
“ for *many sores* that have no disposition to heal
“ have so far the *same character.*” p. 215.—“ This
“ form of the disease, like the gonorrhœa, both in
“ women and in men, is entirely local; the con-
“ stitution having no connection with it, but sympa-
“ thetically.” p. 225.—“ Chancres, as well as the
“ gonorrhœa, are perhaps seldom or *never wholly*
“ *venereal*; but are varied by certain peculiarities of
“ the constitution at the time. The treatment there-
“ fore of them, both local and constitutional, will
“ admit of variety; and it is upon the knowledge of
“ this variety, that the skill of the surgeon principally
“ depends.” p. 226.—“ Mercury is the cure of the
“ venereal symptoms, abstractedly considered; but
“ there is no one specific for the others, the treat-
“ ment of which must vary according to the consti-
“ tution.” Ibid.—“ I have endeavoured to shew that
“ chancres are *local* complaints; this opinion is fur-
“ ther confirmed, by their being destroyed or cured
“ merely

“merely by a local treatment.”(k) p. 227.—“Chancres, after having their venereal taint corrected, often become stationary.” p. 231.—“The last matter of a chancre most probably is not venereal.” p. 260.—“In the cure of chancres I have sometimes seen, when the original chancre has been doing well, and probably nearly cured, that new ones have broken out upon the prepuce, near to the first, and have put on *all the appearance of a chancre*; but such I have *always* treated as not

(k) In the second volume, N^o II, of the MEDICAL REPOSITORY of America, Dr. Mitchill mentions that numerous instances of chancres have been cured in the New York hospital, by the local application of pot-ash alone! The surprising facility of these cures, he thinks, “may serve to confirm the doubts of those gentlemen who disbelieve the wonders said to be wrought by the nitric acid; and, at the same time, to give new matter of reflection to those who have ascribed to it something like a *specific mode of action*.”—If the alkali cure by a specific power, what shall we say of its opposite, the acid of nitre? And, if the latter cure by any peculiar inherent virtue, what shall we say of the former? Do not these successes, which have also been verified by practitioners in London, prove that the cure of PRIMARY symptoms depends merely upon a common active principle, (perhaps an encreased excitement of the capillary vessels,) and not on any *specific operation* in the remedies employed?

“venereal.”

“ venereal.” p. 242.—Mr. H. remarks “ that in
“ the cure of chancres, swellings of the glands shall
“ arise,” which nevertheless “ are *not venereal*, but
“ arise from the mercury.” p. 243.—He again says,
p. 248, that after chancres have been healed, “ and
“ all the virus gone,” sores *frequently* break out on
the prepuce, which “ often have *so much the appear-*
“ *ance of chancres*, that I am perswaded *many* are
“ treated as venereal that are really not such.” And
sometimes these are difficult to cure: “ A gentleman
“ had three sores broke out on the prepuce, which
“ had *very much the appearance of mild chancres* :”
Mr. H. having been unable to cure them by com-
mon means, “ ordered forty drops of the lixivium
“ saponarium to be taken every evening and morn-
“ ing in a bason of broth. After using it three days,
“ he observed a considerable alteration in the sores,
“ and in six days they were perfectly skinned over.
“ He had formerly had such sores *often*, which had
“ *always been treated as venereal* ; but he began to
“ doubt whether they really were so, from their get-
“ ting so soon well in the present instance by the
“ lixivium.”—Mr. Hunter “ knew a gentleman who
“ had these sores (*resembling real chancres*) breaking
“ out and healing again for years. By bathing in
“ the

“ the sea for a month or two they healed up and
“ never afterwards appeared.” p. 249.

Speaking of warty excrescences he says, many persons regard them “ not as simply a consequence
“ of the venereal poison, but as possessed of its
“ *specific disposition*, and therefore they have re-
“ course to mercury for the cure of them.” p. 250:
he differs from them in opinion, however, and thinks
mercury ineffectual

Excoriation and discharge from the inside of the
prepuce are sometimes very obstinate, and may “ bid
“ defiance to all our applications;” notwithstanding
which, they are said to be “ *not venereal*.” p. 252.
“ The prepuce in such cases often becomes a little
“ thickened and contracts in its orifice, both which
“ circumstances render the inversion of it difficult
“ and painful. Whether this complaint ever arises
“ from a venereal cause *is not certain*, as it often
“ takes place where there never has been any vene-
“ real taint.”

“ The true venereal ulcer in the throat is perhaps
“ the *least liable to be mistaken* of any of the forms
“ of

“ of the disease.” p. 323.—“ The lues venerea is
“ perhaps subject to *less variety* than either the go-
“ norrhoea or chancre, and its mode of cure is of
“ course more uniform.” p. 332.—Speaking of the
use of guaiacum, sarsaparilla, mezereon, &c. Mr.
H. says that “ some thinking minds” have doubted
whether the diseases cured by them “ were venereal
“ or not; and their being cured by different medi-
“ cines ought to produce a conviction of their being
“ different from the venereal disease,” p. 272: he
then adds these remarkable words, “ The mezereon
“ is seldom given in venereal ulcers of the throat,
“ or blotches on the skin, which of *all* venereal
“ symptoms are the MOST CERTAIN.”—Let this argu-
ment of Mr. Hunter have its due influence on the
present occasion. Acids cure a certain class of symp-
toms; so will fixed alkalies; the oxygenated muriate
of potash, a neutral salt, will do the same; so will
opium, and other vegetable substances. Can all these
symptoms (curable by such different means) be re-
garded as *truly venereal*? When the new remedies
prove decidedly and permanently efficacious “ in
“ venereal ulcers of the throat, or blotches on the skin,
“ which of all venereal symptoms are the most certain,”
I then shall admit the reality of their antisymphilitic
powers.

Persons who have not particularly interested themselves in the present controversy, may imagine it will be easy, with so large a mass of evidence before me, to answer every enquiry which can be made relating to the subject. But this is far from being the case. I feel myself in a situation resembling that of a judge, who after having examined a number of witnesses concerning a given point, finds their respective evidence to be inconsistent and contradictory. The facts adduced on the present occasion clash very frequently with each other : practitioners vary greatly in their experience : the results of numerous trials often fail to afford any practical axiom : so that different readers will probably form dissimilar conclusions. Amidst all this uncertainty I must chiefly trust to my own personal observation ; and each gentleman of experience, I suppose, will do the same.

The ingenuity of captious or disappointed men, may invent quibbling objections against any body of facts, related with simplicity and truth : and this has been done against the cases I have already presented to the public. Since my former collection was edited, however, I have given the nitrous acid to a much larger number of patients than I had before ; so that my
opinions

opinions are now founded on a series of facts which cannot have materially deceived me in any leading point. It will not be amiss to subjoin a few words in this place, by way of obviating some of the principal objections which have been made against my former trials. But I shall endeavour to be short, while I pay all due respect to the judgment of individuals who differ from me.

1st. The editor of a periodical publication, with very little discernment, but with much unfairness, suggests that the failures which have been adduced on this occasion "*were picked out here and there from among a number of out-door patients who did what they liked,*" and therefore could not be depended on for taking the medicines prescribed.—If this insinuation had been generally true, I could have easily admitted the justice of the conclusion drawn by the anonymous writer: "*to bring forward cases that have failed,*" says he, "*under such circumstances, in being cured by the oxygenated medicines, is of all modes the most uncandid, and must tend to impress the public with an idea that a failure is wished for, merely to defend a system.*" But, as this charge is totally false, and bespeaks the

most consummate ignorance, I can only advise the objector to re-peruse the mass of evidence I have collected: he will then plainly see that the wish "to defend a system" exists in another quarter.

2dly. It has been hinted by the surgeons of Woolwich hospital, that I have not "strictly pursued" their mode of treatment; and they imagine, therefore, that "the numerous failures which have been recorded, are to be ascribed to some irregularity or impropriety in the administration of the remedies, or to a want of perseverance and steadiness in the practitioner or patient." Now, say they, "we are confident that much of our uniform success has been owing to the method which was very early adopted, of changing the preparation whenever it seemed to produce no further effect on the disease or constitution."—These gentlemen will permit me to answer, that I have urged the use of the nitric acid and the oxygenated muriate of potash, both singly and alternately, much farther than they appear to have done: but that I did not think it right, in the trial of a *new* remedy, to conjoin a great variety of poultices and ointments; solutions of camphor, zinc, and nitrated mercury; together with
opium,

opium, hemlock, peruvian bark, carbonic acid and hydrogenous gasses, &c. &c.—so that the objection of my not having “*strictly*” pursued their plan, is partly founded in truth. Their treatment was followed so far as I judged it to be fairly consistent with the object I had in view, namely, to ascertain the virtues of the acid and the kali; but to have varied my plan any otherwise, as the Woolwich surgeons too often did, would only have involved the enquiry in unnecessary difficulties and confusion.

3dly. It has been surmised, that in some of my cases the medicines were not actually taken in the manner I directed; and that, in others, they perhaps might not be of a good quality, or were badly prepared: in others, again, it is said that the doses were too large, or repeated too frequently.—To all this I reply, that if the facts here alledged were true, they could only be applicable in a *very small* number of instances; so as neither to affect the bulk of the evidence, nor the general conclusion I have drawn: for, the remedies were certainly procured of the same quality, and often at the same places, as those were which other practitioners employed with apparent success: they were given, for the most part, by *trusty* persons

persons appointed for that express purpose: their sensible effects commonly shewed that they were actually administered: and, where they were given too freely, as is affirmed, it was not until (in the majority of instances) the remedies had been previously exhibited in smaller doses.

4thly. A much more plausible objection (but of an opposite nature from the last) which has been urged against my trials, is that I did not persevere long enough with the new medicines.—Those who urge this objection in the most forcible manner, are nevertheless compelled to admit that there are cases of syphilis recorded in my former publication, wherein the acid and the kali were given regularly and steadily, for a very long space of time, without finally benefiting the patients; and wherein each of these medicines was administered, in succession, to the same patient. Take, for example, the case of JOHN GIBBINS; concerning which Dr. Beddoes's friend X. Y. Z. writes thus: "CASE IX. appears to have
" been the most impartial administration of the new
" medicine to this patient of all Mr. B.'s cases. The
" acid was given for forty-two days; and the mu-
" riate of potash was taken to the quantity of seventy-

“ six drachms ; and from neither was any relief obtained ; and then an apparently perfect cure was obtained by mercury. But here it may be objected, that the ultimate cure by mercurial ointment was surprizingly rapid :”—and I suppose the caviller would thence infer that this man was not really cured. He will allow me, however, to add here, that as the patient has remained totally free from every symptom of lues venerea to the present day, (nearly a year and a half since he used mercury,) it may be fairly presumed that his cure is complete. Now, if this be deemed an impartial and unexceptionable trial of the comparative efficacy of the new medicines and of mercury, as indeed it must appear to every unbiassed person, I beg to know what inference the objectors will condescend to draw from similar cases ? and what they will say to the unsuccessful experiments of various other practitioners, who have given these remedies as fair a trial as myself ?

5thly. It has been even insinuated that my cases were not *all* venereal ; and in particular, I observe that the patients having “ PUSTULAR ERUPTIONS ” are excepted against by Dr. Beddoes and his anonymous friend.—This is indeed a very formidable objection :

jection: but to whom will the public give credit? Certainly not to these inexperienced critics; who, it seems, have never met with a case of pustular eruptions, and therefore must be totally unqualified to pass any judgment on the nature of secondary venereal symptoms! *Ne Sutor ultra Crepidam*. These are the gentlemen who pique themselves on being "extremely conversant in venereal complaints;" who, in a spirit of "indignation," advance rude and "severe strictures" upon the practice of "young authors,"⁽¹⁾ because they are "engaged in an enquiry in which those whom it concerns have need of truth, not of complaisance." But I shall
here

(1) "If good judges coincide with me in opinion," says Dr. Beddoes, "their indignation, I think, may render young authors more cautious how they lightly treat sincere reporters, and questions of the highest interest." If editing or writing many books be a criterion of practical knowledge, *young authors* must certainly yield the palm to Dr. Beddoes: but it is not impossible that (during twelve years public observation and practice) a surgeon who writes very seldom may have acquired as much experience in this disease, and perhaps cured as many thousand patients, as a physician who employs half his time in book-making, politics, and "aeration." How many OLD medical authors have descended into their graves, as devoid of skill in the *healing art* as a village farrier!

here quote the objection, and prove the ignorance of the objectors, in their own words.

“ I have been informed,” says Dr. Beddoes, p. 205, “ that the oxygenated muriate is not unfrequently “ seen to produce eruptions, and that these eruptions “ disappear without injury, even though the medicine be persevered in : perhaps the eruptions which “ struck the Essayist as singular, and seem to have “ induced him to desist from the muriate. But “ mercury sometimes produces effects not very different.”—Dr. B. here insinuates that the elevated pustular eruptions which occurred in some of my patients (both before and after using the oxygenated remedies) were the same as those mentioned in Dr. Rollo’s publication as being of no importance, because not venereal.

In Part I. Chap. 4, Sect. 2, I described a case (that of John Macauley) wherein was no venereal symptom besides eruptions, ‘ which were of the ‘ pustular form.’ The Dr. having occasion to notice this case, p. 203, writes, in a truly laconic style, “ pustular eruptions *only* ;” as if these were not sufficiently characteristic of the lues venerea.

P. 172. Referring to one of my patients (Thomas Alsey) the critic observes, " Here *pustular* eruptions again, as proofs of venereal affection: " probably arising from plethora, as is common in " youth; or, as some would say, from hyperoxygenation of the system."

P. 171. Alluding to another similar case, (Robert Chace) in which I said my patient had ' well ' marked syphilitic eruptions,' after taking ' two ' hundred and eighty nine drams' of nitrous acid, the captious objector (because the eruptions were pustular) exclaims, " And yet this is mentioned as a " *venereal* case, in discredit of the nitrous acid." So then, it appears, these complaisant and judicious censors have never seen *pustular* syphilitic eruptions!!

My learned and discerning friend Dr. WILLAN, the latest writer on cutaneous diseases, has thus delineated this symptom: " An eruption similar to " the Lichen lividus often occurs as one of the " *secondary appearances of the lues venerea*, and requires a distinct consideration. It may be distinguished from the scorbutic form of the Lichen lividus, by the following particulars: 1. The pa-
" pulæ

“ pulæ are smaller, more numerous, and more gene-
“ rally diffused over the surface of the body :
“ 2. When the eruption has continued for some
“ time, the tops of the papulæ are flattened and often
“ depressed : 3. *The syphilitic Lichen seldom becomes*
“ *scurfy*, neither does it, like the other species, ever
“ disappear spontaneously, nor by any change in the
“ patients’ diet ; but has a termination peculiar to
“ itself : the papulæ, in several clusters, *assume a*
“ *pustular form and suppurate* ; being at length suc-
“ ceeded by considerable ulcerations, which can
“ only be healed by a proper mercurial course.”
(Description and Treatment of Cutaneous Diseases,
ORDER I. p. 56.)—Mr. Hunter, p. 319, has also men-
tioned “ venereal eruptions coming to suppuration ;”
which “ appear in small distinct inflammations, *con-*
“ *taining matter, and resembling pimples*, but not so
“ pyramidal, nor so red at the base.” It would be
an endless task to quote all the authors who have de-
scribed these eruptions : suffice it to observe, that
the lues venerea derived its name (POCKS) from the
pustular appearances it often exhibits.

The objection to my cases, as not being ALL syphi-
litic, has now, I hope, been completely refuted: for

I consider it as levelled chiefly, if not exclusively, against the secondary affections, and in particular against the cases of pustular eruptions. Such of them as were dubious, or not venereal, I have myself pointed out in the narrations: but clear cases and fair experiments enow remain, to satisfy impartial and unprejudiced judges. Several other criticisms (contained in the New Reports) are here passed over in silence; because every candid reader must deem them both trifling and impertinent, the frothy effusions of an acrimonious spirit.

As Dr. Beddoes has thought proper to mention his having ‘*received from the Essayist a letter, composed in a strain of deference worthy of a perfect courtier, and abounding in excellent general remarks,*’ I have laid before the public, p. 129, a copy of that letter; and it may not be deemed irrelevant to add, that the answer I received was exactly in unison with the mild, condescending, and gentleman-like spirit of its author. He says, “It is my opinion that your
“ Essay does *great injustice* both to the sentiments of
“ those whom you quote in the first part, and to the
“ subject. It is not merely my feeling;—but Mr.
“ Sandford, Mr. Baynton, Mr. Hammick, and, I
“ believe,

“ believe, others have complained of the manner in
“ which they are represented. Had not my opinions
“ been *much mistated*, I should have entered into
“ no controversy. But I shall endeavour to do
“ myself justice; and if I write any thing unbecom-
“ ing, I shall incur public censure.”

It will not be necessary for me to shew how far the public has already censured the “ unbecoming” style in which Dr. B. has written his strictures; but, as I am at present answering objections, there can be no impropriety in repelling the charge of having misrepresented or mistated certain gentlemen’s opinions. Now the very essence of this crime (so far as I can discover from the New Reports) consists in my having imputed to several medical practitioners an excessive degree of zeal and hope.

My circular letter (of October 16, 1797,) begins thus: ‘ Several respectable physicians and surgeons
‘ have positively affirmed, that nitrous acid and other
‘ substances of analogous constitution, are a certain
‘ and speedy remedy against the lues venerea: to
‘ establish this point, many instances of cures in the
‘ early stage of that disease have been attested. But,
‘ as the success of experiments made in recent and
‘ doubtful

‘ doubtful cases, which might perhaps have terminated happily by other means, and without the administration of mercury, are unsuitable proofs of the efficacy of a supposed anti-venereal remedy, it has been judged fit to invite practitioners to make trial of these medicines in more inveterate cases; where well marked blotches, nodes, ulcerated fauces, and other characteristic symptoms of a genuine syphilis appear: those patients who have not used mercury, or who may have employed it long ago, and had a relapse of their complaints, are the most unexceptionable for this purpose.’ Dr. B. thinks I have here much mistated facts: “ The compliment which the author of this paper has paid me, by imitating me in the measure of a circular letter, shall not prevent me from remarking an inaccuracy in the first sentence—an inaccuracy of fact, I mean. No other would be worth notice. Few, if any, of the persons to whom he alludes, have generally affirmed the substances in question to be, ‘ certain and speedy remedies against the lues venerea.’ They relate their observations, call upon others to make trials, and wait in suspense the final result.”—Again, I had said in the same letter, ‘ The hopes of experimenters are sanguine;

‘ guine; the public mind continues in suspense;
 ‘ the matter in question is of very great importance,
 ‘ and cannot soon be decided by the observations of
 ‘ an individual.’ Dr. B. replies to this, as follows:

“ The first sentence of the second paragraph may
 “ afford an instructive lesson to maxim-mongers.

“ *The hopes of experimenters are sanguine*—true.

“ But *the hopes of experimenters* are also not san-
 “ guine. Either proposition is right or wrong, as

“ it is applied. The felicity of its application to the

“ Plymouth experimenters, whose observations form

“ so large a portion of the existing evidence, is well

“ illustrated by Dr. Geach’s letter, in which he says,

“ that he entered upon the use of nitrous acid with a
 “ feeling of distrust, almost of contempt. Will the

“ writer fasten his reproach on the Woolwich ex-

“ perimenters? Or does he only mean, that there

“ have been, since the world began, instances of

“ sanguine experimenters, though the principal per-

“ sons engaged in this enquiry were either not san-

“ guine, or remarkably sceptical?”

Is it possible that I should have so egregiously
 mistaken or perverted the words of “ the principal
 “ persons engaged in this enquiry,” as Dr. B. here
 alleges?—Have not ‘ several physicians and sur-

‘ geons

“geons positively affirmed,” what I imputed to them, “that nitrous acid, and other substances of analogous constitution, are a certain and speedy remedy against the lues venerea?”—Or, were the chief experimenters really “*not sanguine, or remarkably sceptical?*”—Let these gentlemen speak for themselves: I shall offer no comment upon their words.

“I have now had a pretty extensive experience of the good effects of the nitric acid in syphilis; and I have reason to believe, that it is not in general less effectual than mercury in removing that disease, *in all its forms and in every stage of its continuance:*” (Mr. H. Scott’s letter, dated April 30, 1796.) “I have administered it against the primary symptoms of the disease; and I have given it for exostoses, for carious bones, for nocturnal pains, for eruptions and ulcers of the skin, and for *all the train of misery that is attendant on lues:*” (Ibidem.) “I have now made it probable that, like mercury, the nitric acid is absorbed by the skin, and afterwards produces in the system the *same effects* that arose from its internal use:” (July 22, 1797.) “Since the publication of my letter of the 22d of last month, I have seen a case
“ of

“ of lues venerea that affords me the most satisfactory
“ evidence of its great and truly surprising efficacy for
“ that disease:” (August 5, 1797.) “ From the
“ few decisive cases that I have already seen, I do
“ suppose that bathing in the nitric acid, properly
“ diluted with water, is still more effectual than its
“ internal use; and that either way of administering
“ it is to be preferred to mercury, as more powerful
“ and entirely harmless:” (Ibidem.) “ In a few
“ years I think that mercury, as a remedy for lues
“ venerea, will be banished by this acid; and in
“ some of my dreams for the improvement of the
“ condition of man, I even imagine that the poison
“ of syphilis may in a great measure be extinguished
“ over the face of the earth, not by the efforts of the
“ magistrate, but by an agent like this, safe, simple,
“ and efficacious:” (Ibidem.) “ The good effects
“ of the acid, especially in syphilis, when taken in-
“ ternally, I see daily confirmed; and I at last be-
“ lieve, that no case can resist it, when properly ad-
“ ministered for a sufficient time:” (October 20,
1797.) “ I have such extensive experience of the
“ effects of nitrous acid, that I cannot be mistaken:”
(Letter to Dr. Al. Johnson.) Thus far Mr. HELENUS
SCOTT, of Bombay.

“ Les observations que je présente aujourd’hui,
“ sont précédées d’une doctrine éversive de toutes
“ celles qu’on a suivies jusqu’à ce jour : je fronde
“ des préjugés de trois siècles ; je cherche à ren-
“ verser d’antiques erreurs, d’autant plus difficiles à
“ déraciner qu’elles sont consignées dans les livres les
“ plus vantés. *En un mot, je m’efforce de bannir le*
“ *mercure du traitement des maladies syphilitiques :*”
(Preface to M. ALYON’s *Essai sur les propriétés mé-*
dicinales de l’Oxygène, read at the Society of Medi-
cine, of Paris, June 25, 1797.)

“ I agree with you in the expectations you form
“ of the benefit to medicine from the new chemistry.
“ I may mention the application of the nitric acid to
“ the cure of lues, communicated by Mr. Scott, of
“ Bengal, to Sir Joseph Banks. I have proved this
“ practice in *various instances*, and can assure you
“ of its extraordinary success :” (Letter from Dr.
CURRIE to Dr. Rollo, Feb. 20, 1797.) “ There
“ is *no question* about the antivenereal effects of the
“ nitrous acid. That which I have used has been
“ the nitrous, not nitric ; for I had not the latter
“ by me, and I found the former succeed :” (Ibid,
March 18, 1797.)

“ If

“ If these remedies should be found, from further
“ experience, to be adequate to the cure of this dis-
“ ease in all its stages, the advantages which they
“ *possess over mercury are so great and important,*
“ that they must in a great measure supersede its
“ use. They require no particular regimen, no
“ confinement, are not accompanied with *any* dis-
“ agreeable consequences during their operation,
“ and they seem *in general to produce their effects*
“ *more quickly and certainly :*” (Mr. CRUICKSHANK,
in the first edition of Dr. ROLLO’s work on the
Diabetes Mellitus.)

“ Since the 13th March, 1797, I have not ad-
“ mitted into the hospital a patient with symptoms
“ of the venereal disease (except the last mentioned)
“ to whom I have prescribed any other medicine
“ but the nitrous acid, nor administered it in vain :”
(Dr. WITTMAN, first edition of Dr. Rollo’s work.)

“ These different facts are extremely gratifying;
“ they hold up remedies likely to turn out *more*
“ *generally successful, and less injurious, than mercury*
“ in the cure of the lues venerea :” (Dr. ROLLO,
preface to first edition.) “ Of these new remedies,

“ the oxygenated muriate of potash will no doubt
“ be preferred. It has been found of superior effi-
“ cacy in the lues in its primary, and, from some
“ trials, *we have no doubt of its being equally so in its*
“ *secondary state :*” (Ibidem.)—“ After which, Dr.
“ Currie’s testimony, and that of others, in favour
“ of the nitrous acid, as an efficacious and *certain*
“ *remedy for the venereal disease*, were communi-
“ cated :” (Ibidem.)

“ The nitrous acid is a most safe and efficacious
“ medicine in *all* venereal obstructions, and diseases
“ depending upon them :” Dr. CHISHOLM’s letter to
Dr. Rollo, Martinique, 9th June, 1798.)

“ The continuation of the results of the trials with
“ the new remedies in the lues venerea, will, we trust,
“ be found satisfactory ; *as it completely establishes*
“ *their efficacy in the secondary, as well as in the pri-*
“ *mary states of the disease :*” (Dr. ROLLO, preface
to the second edition of his work on Diabetes.)

“ Either these remedies cure the lues venerea, or,
“ *in 99 cases of 100, the disease cures itself.* Our
“ opponents may take which side they choose ; for
“ on

“ on either supposition, mercury must be unneces-
“ sary, and *this is our principal object :*” (Mr.
CRUICKSHANK, second edition of Dr. Rollo’s work.)
“ This small number of secondary cases proves, in a
“ great measure, *the certainty and efficacy* of this
“ mode of treatment : (Ibidem.)

“ I had an opportunity of selecting the *worst*
“ venereal cases that were brought into the Royal
“ Hospital. The cases in which the nitric acid has
“ been given, already amount to more than fifty in
“ number ; *and the success has fully answered the*
“ *character which has been given of this newly dis-*
“ *covered remedy :*” (Mr. HAMMICK’s letter to Dr.
Beddoes, July 22, 1797.) “ We have still con-
“ tinued to give the nitric acid in the same disorder,
“ and with equal success :” (Ibidem, August 14,
1797.) “ We have not the least hesitation in de-
“ claring it boldly as our opinion, that this medicine
“ will stand the test of unprejudiced exhibition, and
“ will continue to be given with *permanent success* to
“ the greater number of venereal cases that occur :”
(Ibidem, October 31, 1798.)

“ I do myself the honor, agreeably to your re-
“ quest,

“ quest, of writing to you, and assuring you that the
“ patients, whose cases Mr. Hammick junior lately
“ transmitted, were regularly attended by myself;
“ *and every circumstance was remarked as minutely*
“ *as possible, and is strictly true :*” (Dr. GEACH’S
letter to Dr. Beddoes, July 26, 1797.)

“ The beneficial effects of it” (the nitrous acid in
lues) “ have been most conspicuous, absolutely sur-
“ prizing, and *far greater* than I remember to have
“ ever seen produced, in the same space of time by
“ *any preparation of mercury.* Such salutary effects
“ have been remarked principally in the more ad-
“ vanced stages of the disease, where some of the most
“ distressing symptoms were present; particularly
“ severe pains in the bones, swellings in the peri-
“ osteum, fici, &c. I have seen all these pass away
“ most rapidly under the use of the acid :” (Dr.
RUTHERFORD’S letter to Dr. Beddoes, Aug. 24, 1797.)

November 25, 1796, Mr. BAYNTON writes of a
gentleman, who had laboured under bad secondary
symptoms of syphilis, having at that time “ *obtained*
“ *a cure*” by the acid; and in a letter to Dr. Bed-
does, August 22, 1797, he also states that he had

two more “ venereal patients, who were cured of the
“ *last stage* of that disease, after a failure of care-
“ fully conducted mercurial courses :” (See Dr.
Beddoes’s first Reports, pp. 48 and 78.)

“ Immediately on receiving your last part of
“ Considerations on Air, &c. I communicated the
“ success of Mr. Scott’s practice in lues venerea by
“ nitric acid, as there narrated, to many of my me-
“ dical acquaintance : three cases, treated in this
“ manner, were quickly cured by Dr. Huggan,
“ surgeon to the West Kent regiment; and to these
“ I allude, in my letter to Dr. Rollo. Vide his
“ work on Diabetes. Various causes have opposed
“ my trials of this new medicine ; but I can reckon
“ *six or seven cures, and most of them of long stand-*
“ *ing.* In some, mercury had been used without
“ effect; in others, the acid was the first antisymphilitic
“ medicine. It appears to me that careful observers
“ will soon be able to select particular cases of lues,
“ that will justify practice in trusting *solely* to the
“ nitric acid : my experience has hitherto been too
“ confined to hazard speculation, and from the nu-
“ merous trials now going on every where, there is no
“ need of leaving the subject to such uncertainty.

“ Accept

“ Accept my warmest thanks, in the name of the
“ public service I have the honour to represent in
“ this undertaking, for extending and appreciating the
“ discovery *that must immortalize Mr. Scott.* You
“ will abridge the labour of the naval surgeon, and
“ you will save the seamen of Britain from pre-
“ mature old age and untimely graves:” (Dr. TROT-
TER’s letter to Dr. Beddoes, Dec. 4, 1797.)

“ We seem to have found a *new specific for vene-*
“ *real affections,* in nitrous acid, *such as we possessed*
“ *before in mercury:*” (Dr. BEDDOES, *Consid. on*
Airs, Part V. App.) “ In above fifty cases, many of
“ them picked for the worst, the surgeons of the
“ Royal Hospital at Plymouth have found this acid
“ *certain, expeditious, and infinitely milder than mer-*
“ *cury.* Above 100 *bad cases* stand attested as cured,
“ beyond all reasonable doubt:” (Sept. 5, 1797,
circular Letter.) “ There is, therefore, already in
“ favour of the nitrous acid, a far greater fulness
“ and variety of testimony, than has ever been pro-
“ duced in favour of any of those other substances
“ that have at various times been proposed as sub-
“ stitutes for mercury:” (First Reports, p. 83.)
“ The positive evidence is such as appears to be
“ incapable

“incapable of being invalidated by negative:” (Letter from Dr. BEDDOES, Monthly Magazine, Jan. 1st, 1798.) “That the new substances have not
“only a degree of REAL antivenereal power, but such a
“degree as will often avail where the more usual means
“would not serve, or would destroy, appears to me to
“result clearly from the whole of the evidence. And
“I am thoroughly convinced that gross injustice has
“been done to the subject itself, and to several who
“have ably treated it. What, therefore, under this
“feeling, I have opposed to dashing conclusions, or
“petulant mistatements, I shall not either retract or
“soften:” (New Reports, p. 268.) “The new
“saline antisypilitics have too many recommend-
“ations to be abandoned on the first clamour of
“disappointment, or in compliment to surgical au-
“thors and surgical practitioners, who may fear lest
“their own consequence should be diminished by the
“introduction of remedies so much less hazardous, and
“probably of more easy management, than mercury:”
(Ibidem, p. 230.) A candid and liberal suggestion!

I pass by several other testimonies: these will suffice to shew what were the views and feelings of
“the principal persons engaged in this enquiry,” and

whether they “ were either not sanguine or remarkably sceptical.”—But, while the modest encomiums of these gentlemen are fresh in the minds of my readers, it will be *à propos* to mention that a still more powerful remedy has been recently announced in the West of England. (*London Medical Review and Magazine*, for November 1799, ART. V.) This new AERIAL antisyphilitic, like the precious philosopher’s stone, is the result “ of a vast chemical investigation;” and, therefore, may be expected to yield a proportionably rich harvest to its ingenious fabricators. A young author, training up at the “ Medical Pneumatic Institution,” is said to have discovered “ a compound which seems to possess antisyphilitic powers SUPERIOR to the substances lately so much brought into question.” Superior even to the boasted specific! How full of promise! “ But, the account of its effects will be deferred.” This determination is highly prudent and commendable. “ Meanwhile” (adds Dr. Beddoes) “ we shall try it with great hope, in the worst secondary venereal cases, and in various others.” Past experience must have taught the public to receive such accounts with extreme caution and diffidence. The following note is intimately connected with this subject.

To Mr. BLAIR.

SIR,

I some time ago communicated to you, and to Dr. Beddoes, several cases of supposed cures in the lues venerea, by the new plan of treatment. Justice to the public requires me now to mention, that *all* these patients experienced a relapse of their disease; and that my former sanguine expectations, respecting the antivenereal effects of oxygen gas, have not been realized in the numerous trials I since then made. Give me leave also to suggest, that I have lately been to the Medical Pneumatic Institution at Bristol, where Dr. Beddoes and Mr. Davy were trying the newly discovered *aerial* antisyphilitic medicine: but, many of the cases which I saw, were very equivocal, and unfit for decisive experiments.

I am, Sir,

&c. &c.

Hatton-Garden.

CHARLES BROWN.

December 18, 1799.

Corresponding with this report of Mr. Brown, I beg permission to inform my readers, that I cannot *now* find in London a single medical practitioner of

repute, (after the failures and relapses which have happened,) who trusts the cure of his venereal patients to any of the acids. A similar declaration was made by Dr. Bradley, at the Society in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on tuesday the 17th of December instant.

It may now be easily determined, Whether these substances be possessed of *specific* virtues, such as reside in mercury? Whether any injustice would be done them, in denying that they have *real* antivenereal power? and, Whether they ought *solely* to be trusted, in any indubitable instance of a confirmed syphilis? These are the grand questions to be decided; and upon these points I have no scruple in answering negatively,—that the oxygenated medicines are not specifics in the lues venerea,—that they are totally devoid of real antisiphilitic virtue,—and that in no case of the genuine disease can they be safely relied on: consequently, they are unfit substitutes for mercury, wherever that mineral is plainly indicated; *i. e.* wherever a syphilitic infection actually exists. “If good judges agree with me in opinion, their indignation, I think, may render *speculative* authors more cautious how they lightly treat sincere reporters, and questions of the highest interest.”

In

In the preliminary observations to the first part of this Essay, I remarked that ‘ the introduction of a
‘ new medicine is usually accompanied with diffi-
‘ culties. There is danger, on one side, lest its vir-
‘ tues should be exaggerated beyond the limits of
‘ truth, through the zeal and precipitancy of its ad-
‘ vocates; while, on the other hand, there is cause
‘ to apprehend that its *real merits* may be denied,
‘ by supercilious and prejudiced practitioners.’ We
must not, therefore, refuse a just tribute of praise
to the nitrous acid, although it ought positively to be
excluded from the number of genuine antisyphilitics.

The discriminating editor of the New Reports affirms that “ the great mother-problem is, *Whether these remedies will do any sort of good in the venereal disease?*”—and that “ *Whether the treatment recently proposed can be substituted for the old?*” is one of “ the subordinate questions.” I have presumed to reverse this order of the investigation, as the latter enquiry is by far the most important. But this question having been negatived, let us further enquire, WHETHER THESE MEDICINES WILL DO ANY SORT OF GOOD TO PATIENTS LABOURING UNDER THE VENEREAL DISEASE OR ITS CONSEQUENCES?

From

From the general mass of evidence before me, as well as from my own recent trials (which, though extensive and greatly varied, need not be here detailed) I venture to pronounce that permanent good may be derived from the judicious administration of the new remedies. Indeed, so much benefit, I think, will accrue from their use, as fully to recompense the labour of those who have most exerted themselves in the present controversy. By making this free concession, I do not mean to give the merit of a new discovery to Mr. SCOTT, nor to any of the modern experimenters: for acids have been long employed by other practitioners in medicine. Modern writers, however, deserve commendation for bringing these remedies forward to public notice, and attempting to define their virtues more explicitly. For my own part, I seem convinced that several particulars have been already ascertained; and that future observers will not be able to invalidate the following conclusions.

I. Dyspeptic and debilitated venereal patients (if they be not hectic) almost certainly receive benefit from the daily use of the acids, in conjunction, or given alternately, with mercury. They not only have their

their general strength and appetite improved, but are also enabled to bear the proper quantity of mercury much better than when it is administered alone.

II. In erysipelatous, phagedænic, languid, fistulous, and irritable ulcers, where no venereal infection exists, and where mercury would probably do harm, the diluted acids are sometimes astonishingly efficacious, employed externally as well as internally.

III. Old chronic pains and tumors in the bones, ligaments, and membranous parts, have been alleviated by the internal use of the new remedies; especially, when these symptoms arose from the maladministration of mercury.

IV. The nitric lotion is often serviceable in cases of excoriated glans or prepuce, &c. accompanied with a puriform discharge; where the degree of swelling, pain, and inflammation are inconsiderable: but the common saturnine wash appears to be equally beneficial, and has the advantage of never encreasing the inflammatory symptoms.

V. Gonorrhœa and leucorrhœa may now and then

then be removed by the acids, employed internally or by injection; but they often will produce a troublesome dysuria, and are not so certain in arresting those discharges as the common means of cure.

VI. Buboes tending to suppuration, and indurated lymphatic glands, have sometimes been dispersed by these medicines; but, in this respect likewise, they are inferior to other modes of treatment,

VII. Although the result of my own experience has not encouraged me to persist in the use of M. ALYON'S "oxygenated lard," several practitioners in London have composed an ointment (impregnated with nitrous acid) which is highly serviceable in herpetic, impetiginous, and itchy eruptions. In such cases, I have repeatedly seen good effects from the nitric mixture and lotion.

VIII. Most of the local inconveniences which arise from an incautious use of mercury, such as ulcerated cheeks, swelled tongue, spongy gums, loose teeth, foetid breath, and profuse salivation, (however paradoxical it may seem,) have been more speedily and effectually relieved by the internal exhibition of the acids,

acids, than by any other medical treatment hitherto employed: so that, for these purposes, I now trust to them confidently, and almost exclusively.

IX. Under no circumstances of disease, or peculiarity of constitution, has the oxygenated muriate of potash appeared to me preferable to the acids: but, on the contrary, the latter have proved much more beneficial, and less injurious to the system, than the former. This remark, perhaps, will hold equally true of the oxygen gas; respecting which, however, the evidence is at present too defective to ground any solid conclusion upon. I think also, that very little reliance can be placed in the nitric acid bath, except for some cutaneous affections.

X. I have never derived any manifest advantage from encreasing the daily quantity of the acids to more than two drams; and, in common, I find *one measured dram* sufficient,—either diluted in plain water, or qualified with syrup, opium, or ardent spirits. For a lotion or injection, I mix from twenty to sixty drops of the concentrated acid with a pint of pure water.

XI. Of all the different acids, I have seen most

benefit from the nitrous or nitric. The latter is more palatable, though not more efficacious, than the former: but in certain constitutions, none of the acids will agree; and in some cases, especially where considerable inflammation exists, it is highly improper to exhibit them. When they did not *speedily* improve the appetite, and afford an encrease of vigour, I have seldom seen any future benefit to the general health from their continued exhibition.

XII. Where “the saline antisypilitics,” as they are called, have disagreed, some of the following unpleasant consequences ensued: *viz.* violent nausea, vomiting, flatulency, cardialgia, eroding pains in the stomach, diarrhœa, dysentery, obstinate constipation, heat in the bowels, constant itching of the skin, miliary eruptions, universal tremor, frequent cold shivering, extreme giddiness, throbbing in the head, disordered intellect, crethismus, irregular palpitation of the heart, intermitting and quick pulse, dyspnœa, ardor urinæ, forcing pain of the uterus, diminished or suppressed secretion of bile, spitting of blood, hæmorrhage from the nose, ophthalmia, and phlogistic diathesis; to which may be added (in some few examples) an injurious effect on the enamel of the

the teeth, inflamed lips, swelled cheeks, deep ulcers of the tongue, and copious ptyalism.

XIII. I regard the chemical explanation which has generally been given of the *modus operandi* of the new remedies and of mercury, in the venereal disease, as entirely hypothetical. But, whatever be their respective mode of action, their sensible effects are not strictly analogous to each other: for the salivation, now and then arising from the free use of the acids, is very different from a mercurial ptyalism, being unaccompanied with looseness of the teeth, spongy gums, or foetid breath; and their constitutional effects, in many particulars, seem of an opposite nature from those which are experienced by a long continued course of mercury. *Quis, antipathia et sympathia veterum rejectis, (Dr. Pitcairn enquires,) homines de pugna et amicitia duplicis ætheris intra canales corporum occurrentis, disserere paratos ferat? Quis, calido et adventitio ætherem consuetum et peregrinum paria facere, mutatisque solum verbis, eandem narrari fabulam non animadvertat? Debenet profecto ægroti putare bene secum agi, si incidant in hujus sectæ Medicum, qui nihil theoriæ suæ tribuat, sed usui omnia.* (Diss. Med. pp. 9 & 151.)

Although I have not the vanity to imagine a complete statement is here made of all the uses to which the oxygenated remedies may be applied, (for they may probably be useful in disorders out of the general sphere of my observation,) it will perhaps be allowed that, “ from the facts I now publish, every
“ discreet practitioner may derive information bene-
“ ficial to his patients ; so that the advantage of these
“ endeavours will be felt through distant countries
“ and future ages. But I should experience much
“ greater satisfaction at the present moment, were I
“ not conscious of being about to add to the num-
“ ber of publications which *must fix disgrace some-*
“ *where.*” (See Dr. Beddoes’s advertisement to his New Reports.)

Does it not appear, at the close of this important investigation, that several practitioners have adduced their experiments and opinions “ *in a tone of*
“ *conceited enthusiasm,*” rather than with the coolness, circumspection, and accuracy of philosophical observers? Is there not an incautious, self-confident, dictatorial, and presumptuous spirit, diffused through the writings of a “ *principal person engaged in this*
“ *enquiry?*” He might have been readily for-
given,

given, "*in the ardour of his humanity,*" for dropping a sanguine expression; ("*who, indeed, would envy, or who would deign to celebrate a triumph, over a* "*verbum ardens?*") but, let me ask, by what laws of courtesy or decorum can we justify that air of contemptuous rudeness and menacing asperity which pervades all his criticisms? Much less can he be exculpated for the pains he has taken to vilify the "*character*" of an opponent, and to prejudice, or rather to poison, "*the minds of weak brethren,*" who are "*remote from the sources of information and too* "*unsuspecting to search for traces of misrepresentation* "*or mistake!*" But our hero is not to be appeased by combating an obnoxious individual: he also "*gives vent to his spleen,*" in the most uncandid and insulting language, against whole bodies of scientific persons: he dares to insinuate that "*surgical* "*authors and surgical practitioners*" have resisted the introduction of "*the new saline antisyphilitics,*" from illiberal, sordid, and base motives! And, if "*PROFESSED CRITICS, (men, no doubt, of extensive* "*information, and not to be suspected of rashness, in-* "*attention, favour, or malice,—much less of cabal or* "*collusion, which would be villainy of a dye little less* "*deep than assassination,*") I say, if such equitable
" JUDGES"

“JUDGES” think it right, in their wisdom, to disparage the proceedings of this gentleman, and to bestow “commendations” on those who hold different sentiments, he artfully contrives to evade the force of their decision; he assumes the prerogative of arraigning his judges; he boldly ventures to set them at open defiance; he treats their award with the most sovereign contempt; he regards them as men associated for ignominious private purposes; and, with unparalleled effrontery, even brands them as a junto of “BRITISH LITERARY RUFFIANS, who engage by the day, or the week, or the month, to assassinate literary reputations!”

Will not some persons, unacquainted with the writings of this turbulent author, be ready to believe the portrait I have here drawn is that of a fictitious being, a mere creature of the imagination, or of a man disguised in false colours,—rather than the faithful representation of an original character? It is in the nature of things to expect that so eccentric and formidable a champion, wrapped up in his own exalted merit, should prove as dauntless and invulnerable as the mighty Achilles: accordingly he tells us, “*There was a time when I felt alarm for myself,*
“and

“ and for those who had adopted similar conclusions ;
“ but, though I deem it incumbent upon all men, and
“ more especially upon medical men, to cherish the
“ sense of human fallibility, my fears have nearly sub-
“ sided. The stroke, as far as I can see, is much less
“ terrible than the distant rumbling. The meteor ap-
“ pears to have been of the species which the ancients
“ held cheap under the title of *brutum fulmen*.”

I now leave my readers and the public to determine where, and in what measure, the “ *disgrace must fix*,” which will probably result from the present controversy. It may be reasonably supposed I shall have little or nothing more to advance on this subject: but, as it is not very unlikely that a certain writer may continue to retain his good opinion of these remedies, (“ That the nitrous acid and its
“ kindred,” says he, “ will occupy a much more
“ important station in the *materia medica antisy-
“ philitica*, than the author of the Essay seems
“ ready to assign them, or rather has already assigned
“ them, is my present firm persuasion,”) the public will perhaps be presented with additional arguments in support of that opinion. Should this event take place, the fertile editor may spare him-
self

self the trouble of renewing his personalities and sarcasms, as they cannot hereafter be expected to produce a rejoinder. What may seem defective, however, in this pamphlet, especially with relation to my own cases, I must be permitted to supply when the former is reprinted.

END OF THE SECOND PART.



CORRIGENDA.

Page	Line	
55	6	for <i>were</i> , read <i>was</i> .
106	1 & 11	for <i>Leigh Thomas</i> , read <i>H. Leigh Thomas</i> .
108	14	for <i>nor in</i> , read <i>nor relieved in</i> .
114	6	for <i>tire society</i> , read <i>tire the society</i> .
130	22	for <i>has</i> , read <i>was</i> .
132	14	for <i>pangs</i> , read <i>fangs</i> .
185	19	for <i>shall</i> , read <i>should</i> .
202	21	for <i>and was</i> , read <i>and he was</i> .

In the Press,
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 ON THE
LUES VENEREA,
 TRANSLATED FROM THE THIRD GERMAN EDITION;
 WITH
 NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

